ANDRE LEON TALLEY: A Glimpse at the Life of a Fashion Icon

VENUS

What I Wish My Mama Had Known

A Straight Sistah Sounds Off on What it was REALLY Like **Growing Up with a Gay Mother**

Oh, Taste & See!

Get the Hook Up from our **Travel Editor** on the Hottest Spots to Dine, See and Be Seen during Pride Season

DJ Beverly Bond

Come As You Are!
The Rev. Cecile Williams Story
Plus! Our Tribute to **Nina Simone**

Women Disc Jockies Rockin' the House

Vol. 9 No. 2, 2003
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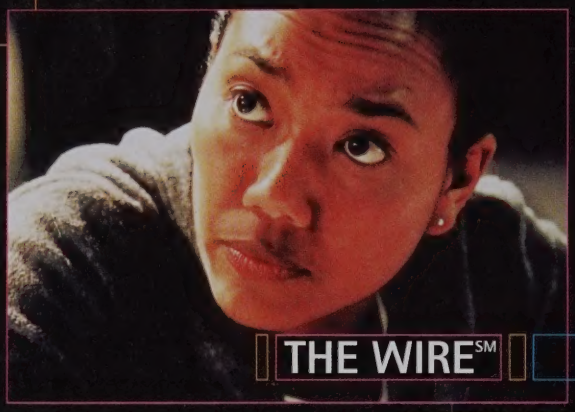
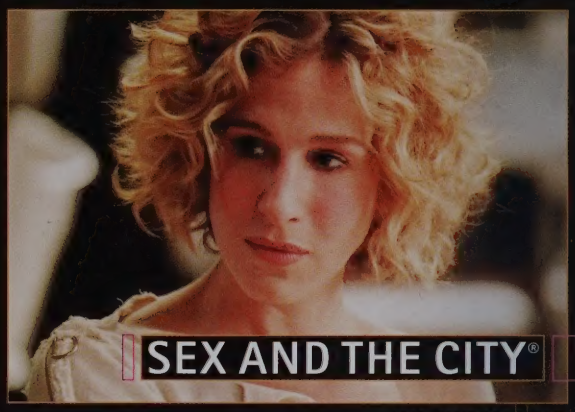


HBO ORIGINAL SERIES

She's a totally out cop-on-the-case, working Baltimore's grittiest beat in this critically acclaimed original drama series. Sonja Sohn stars.

New Season Premieres Sunday, June 1, 10pm/9c



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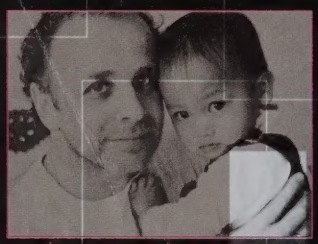

HE'S HAVING A BABY

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OUTRAGEOUS.

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Safety Information

- Make sure to see your doctor regularly because serious side effects can occur, such as muscle damage and a decrease in red and white blood cells
- A buildup of lactic acid in the blood and an enlarged liver, including fatal cases, have been reported
- Low risk of problems with the pancreas in adults and adolescents
- The most frequent side effects are headache, upset stomach, malaise or fatigue, and runny nose

When the time is right for you, ask your doctor about COMBIVIR in combination with other HIV medicines.

Call 1-888-TREAT HIV/Visit www.treatHIV.com

Please see important information about COMBIVIR on adjacent page.

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TABLETS

Patient Information about COMBIVIR Tablets

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
Generic name: lamivudine/zidovudine tablets

Please read this information before you start taking COMBIVIR. Staying informed will help you to work more closely with your doctor and healthcare team to determine what is best for you. Remember, this information does not take the place of careful discussion with your doctor. You should remain under a doctor's care when using COMBIVIR and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is COMBIVIR?

COMBIVIR is the brand name of a tablet that combines EPIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine tablets) [3TC®] and RETROVIR® (zidovudine) Tablets [ZDV], two drugs which are used to treat HIV (human immunodeficiency virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

How does COMBIVIR work?

COMBIVIR is a combination of lamivudine (la-MIV-u-deen) and zidovudine (Zi-DOHV-u-deen), two medicines (nucleoside analogues) that slow down the replication of the HIV virus. This can reduce the virus' ability to infect new cells. It may help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. Lamivudine plus zidovudine when used together can have stronger (synergistic) effects against the virus. COMBIVIR is a convenient way of taking lamivudine and zidovudine. COMBIVIR should usually be taken with other anti-HIV therapy.

Will COMBIVIR work the same as EPIVIR and RETROVIR taken together?

Taking one COMBIVIR Tablet twice a day is the same as taking one EPIVIR 150 mg Tablet twice a day and either two RETROVIR 100 mg Capsules three times a day or one RETROVIR 300 mg Tablet twice a day.

How should I take COMBIVIR?

Take COMBIVIR as your doctor prescribes it. The recommended dose is one COMBIVIR Tablet orally two times a day, with or without food. To help make sure you will benefit from COMBIVIR, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays."

What should I do if I miss a dose of COMBIVIR?

If you miss a dose by more than 4 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time. However, if you miss a dose by less than 4 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of COMBIVIR at any one time.

Does COMBIVIR cure HIV infection or AIDS?

No, there is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking COMBIVIR may still develop infections or other illnesses associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important to remain under the care of a healthcare provider. Use of lamivudine plus zidovudine has been shown to help patients with HIV infection stay healthy and live longer.

Does COMBIVIR reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

No, COMBIVIR, as well as other HIV medications, has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take COMBIVIR?

You should not take COMBIVIR if you have had a serious allergic reaction to either lamivudine (also known as EPIVIR or 3TC) or zidovudine (also known as RETROVIR or ZDV).

Do not take COMBIVIR at the same time as EPIVIR or RETROVIR, or TRIZIVIR® (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine/zidovudine), because they also contain lamivudine and zidovudine.

Individual dosing with EPIVIR plus RETROVIR, rather than COMBIVIR, should be considered for:

- A child under 12 years of age.
- Anyone who requires dosage adjustments due to drug side effects or poor kidney function.

If you are 65 years of age or over, consult your healthcare professional about the functioning of your liver, kidneys, and heart; about other illnesses you may suffer from, and about any other medications you may be taking. It is possible that the dosage may need to be modified.

What medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my healthcare provider?

Talk to your healthcare provider if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while taking COMBIVIR. Ask your doctor about enrolling you in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry: 1-800-258-4263.
- You are breast-feeding. Mothers infected with HIV should not breast-feed their infants because HIV is present in breast milk.

Also talk to your doctor about:

- Problems with your blood counts.
- Problems with your muscles.
- Problems with your kidneys.
- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease, such as hepatitis.

Can COMBIVIR be taken with other medications?

Yes. COMBIVIR can be taken with most other medications, including most anti-HIV drugs. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medications, over-the-counter or prescription, that you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of COMBIVIR?

Do not rely on this summary alone for information about side effects. Your healthcare provider can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects that may be relevant to you.

The safety of COMBIVIR is not expected to be different from the safety of EPIVIR and RETROVIR given separately.

In clinical studies of lamivudine plus zidovudine, side effects occurring in 5% or more of patients included: muscle and joint pain, headache, nausea, weakness and fatigue, nasal symptoms, cough, diarrhea, nausea and vomiting, neuropathy, trouble sleeping, fever or chills, loss of appetite, dizziness, abdominal pain or cramps, depression, skin rashes, and indigestion.

It's important to know that serious side effects can occur with COMBIVIR, such as a decrease in red and white blood cells and muscle damage. A buildup of lactic acid and an enlarged liver, including fatal cases, have been reported rarely with some HIV drugs, including nucleoside analogues.

For HIV-infected individuals, periodic blood tests are recommended. If certain changes occur in your laboratory results while you are taking COMBIVIR, particularly if you become anemic or if your white blood cell count falls too low, your medication may need to be adjusted; your doctor may prescribe EPIVIR plus RETROVIR separately in place of COMBIVIR.

Tell your doctor promptly about any side effects or other unusual symptoms you may experience. Although it may make you healthier, COMBIVIR does not cure HIV.

Safety Information

Make sure to see your doctor regularly, because serious side effects can occur, such as muscle damage and a decrease in red and white blood cells. A buildup of acid in the blood, and an enlarged liver, including fatal cases, have been seen. The most frequent side effects are headache, upset stomach, malaise or fatigue, and runny nose.

Other Information

This medication is prescribed for a particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep COMBIVIR and all medicines out of the reach of children.

Like most prescription drugs, lamivudine and zidovudine were required to be tested on animals before they were allowed for human use. In animal studies with doses much higher than those used in humans, zidovudine was associated with vaginal tumors. Your healthcare provider can tell you more about how drugs are tested on animals and what the results of these tests may mean about safety for you.

How should I store COMBIVIR Tablets?

COMBIVIR Tablets may be stored at room temperature and do not require refrigeration.

gsk GlaxoSmithKline

GlaxoSmithKline
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

This provides a summary of information about COMBIVIR. If you have any questions or concerns about COMBIVIR or HIV, talk to your healthcare provider.

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9 THINGS TO DO TO BE A HEALTHY AFRICAN-AMERICAN

BE A CRITICAL THINKER and aware that in media (film, television, newspapers, magazines, etc.), public and private educational systems (schools) and some advertisements there are messages that may lead Black people to believe we are not as beautiful or as valuable as others.

Black parents talk with-not at-your children. Encourage their critical thinking capacity. Black children talk with-not at-your parents. Encourage their critical thinking capacity.

Exercise daily, drink plenty of water, and eat nutritious foods (fresh vegetables, low fat meats, minimal dairy products and sugar) during the week. Splurge, if you must, on weekends.

Be courageous, improve your life and seek wellness assistance. If you have food, sex, drama (fussing, fighting, violence) or substance use addictions, don't play yourself. Seek change.

If you are heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual and sexually active use protection (a fresh condom and water based lubricant). We live in the age of HIV, and for "us" it's growing. Yet it's 100% preventable.

If you already know you've been sexually active and unprotected – get a confidential HIV test and counseling.

Every time you pass a Brother or Sister in the street, even if they are homeless, speak. It won't cost you a thing.

Unlearn anti-Black thinking. Start with erasing the "N" word from your vocabulary. We are the descendants of enslaved Africans systematically turned against each other. We must actively counter this by affirming one another, even when doing so is a challenge.

If you are self-destructing -- overeating, oversexing, possibly depressed (listen up Brothers), or having a difficult time sustaining relationships, being a decent person or a good role model to children -- seek help. Doing so is a sign of strength, not weakness.

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It is no surprise that America's fashion trends are controlled by the extraordinary talents of Black men. But what may surprise you is that Vogue columnist Andre Leon Talley, the King of creating fashion trends, is such an unassuming gentle giant in a world of ego maniacs. He is constantly shining the spotlight on his colleagues and up and coming designers. With a television show and new book on the shelves, our editors now shine the light on him.

27 **Lady DJ**
Women who take playing recorded music seriously are themselves taken seriously in the DJ booths of major clubs, recording studios and radio stations. Disc Jockey positions that were traditionally reserved for men are now occuppied by talented women... We've captured a few of these Divas in action. Hold on to your hips. These Ladies will ROCK you!

30 **Come As You Are**
The Rev. Cecile Williams is the pastor of San Francisco's Glide Memorial United Methodist Church. He is a hetero Black preacher with congregants that are of every nationality, economic status and sexual orientation. And he wouldn't have it any other way.

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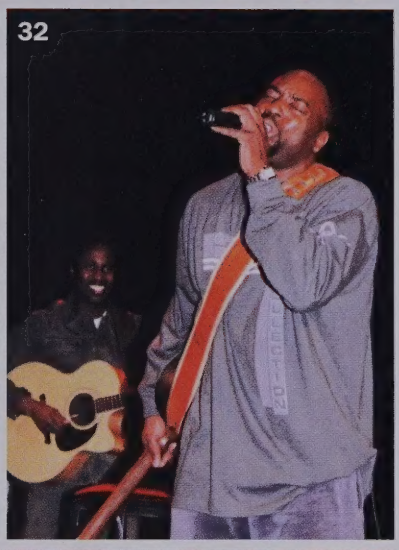

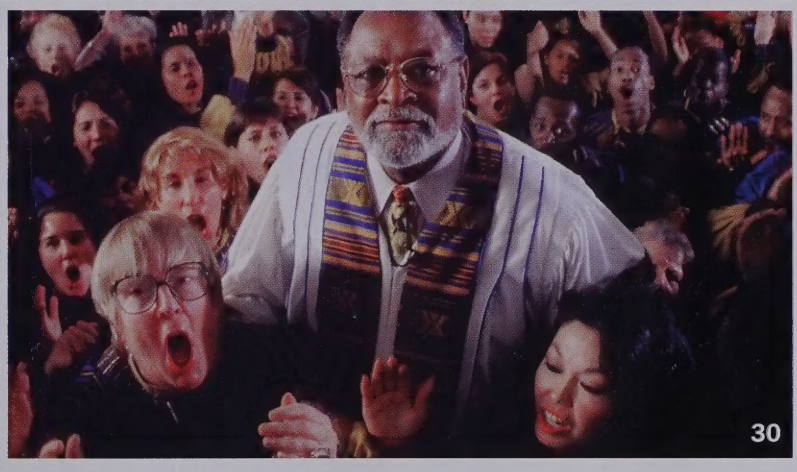

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Nina Simone, jazz pianist and blues vocalist is known, The High Priestess of Soul is honored for transcending racial and musical barriers and raising social consciousness during her career.

VENUS

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief CHARLENE COTHRAN
Assistant to Publisher Kevin Chamberlain

EDITORIAL

Copy Editor *C. E. Cothran*

Fashion Stylist *Jerry Jordan Brown*

Contributing Writers *Michael A. Adams, Keith Barbee, Tina Fakhrid-Deen, Stanley Bennet Clay, Prince Leon Kusi, Craig Washington, Michael K. Watts*

Photography Cover Courtesy of UrbanWorld Films *Carol Friedman, Arthur Elgort, Tia Paul, Koi Sojer*

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

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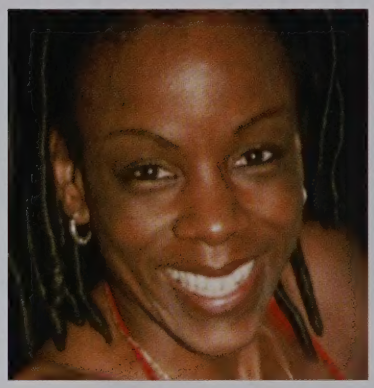
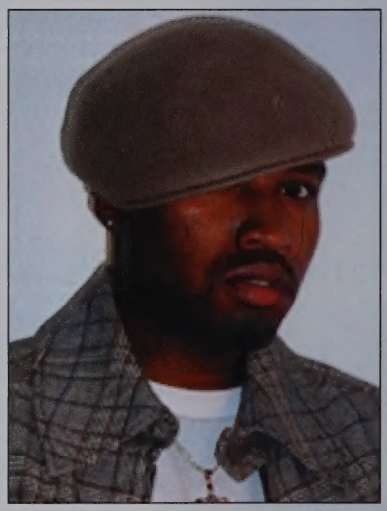
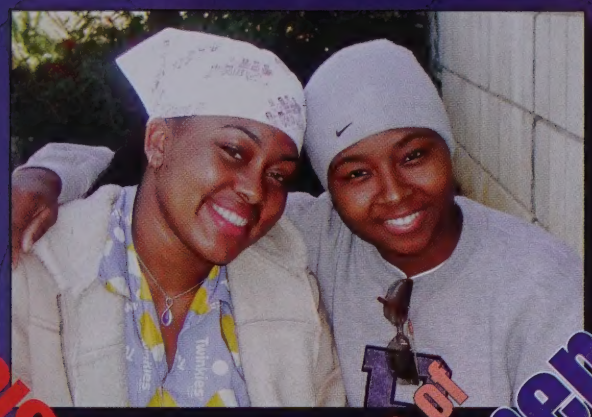


Koi Sojer is a New York based Artographer, who has captured the entertainment industry for over 12 years. A former Professional Woman Basketball player and NGA Bodybuilding Champion, Koi brings strength and creativity to her craft when capturing her subjects. Her works have been published in Vibe, The Source, People, Jet, Blackbeat, Billboard, Pride & NY Daily News. So check out her images from the Black 2 Broadway event, page 32.



Keith Barbee is a 25 year-old native of Ripley, TN. Now a DC-resident, Keith sought refuge in books and the literary process early on. Words have always been important to him, even as a child. Bedtime stories and biblical passages read by his grandfather and the constant humming and singing of spirituals by his grandmother greatly influenced him. "Writing is an extension of who I am and who I hope to become." Check out his interview with Tony winner Melba Moore on page 14.

Tina Fakhrid-Deen is a writer, performer and educator. She is currently the Chicago Chapter Coordinator of COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere.) She lives in Chicago with her husband and newborn. Tina is working on a collection of essays, *Black Rainbow: The Voices of Adult Children with Same-Gender Loving Parents.* Check out her story *"What I Wish My Mama Had Known" page 34.*



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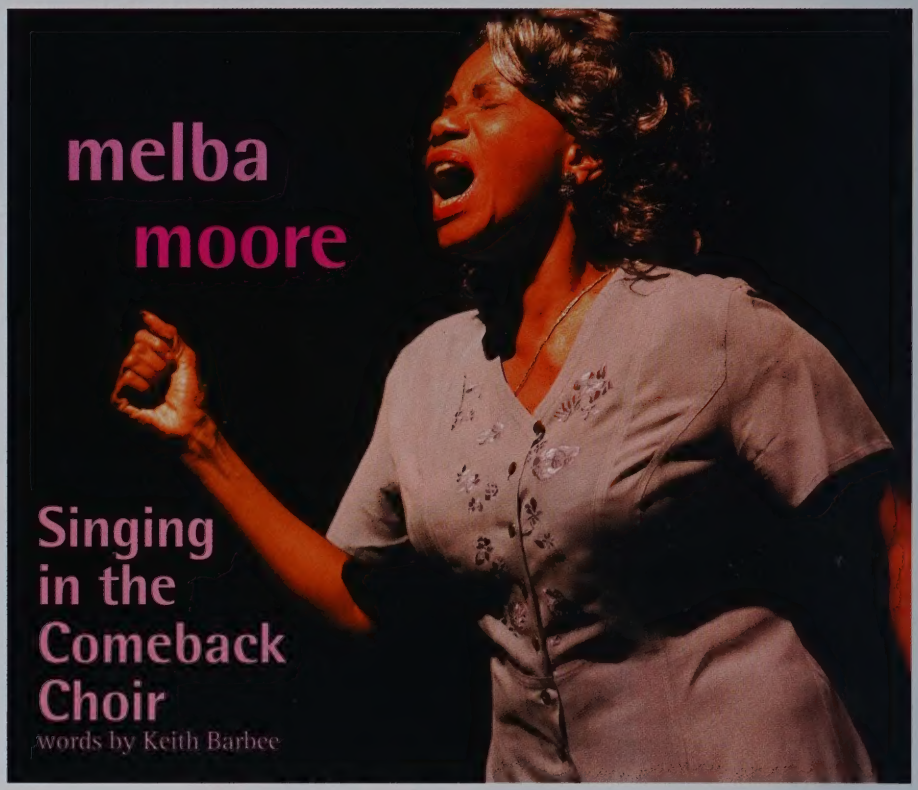


Don't call it a comeback/ I been here for years." Rapper/ actor L.L. Cool J. may have rhymed those lyrics in his redemptive hit, "Mama Said Knock You Out" but legendary singer Melba Moore has lived them.

The Grammy-nominated artist is currently guest-starring as Jackie Wilson's mother, Eliza Mae, in *The Jackie Wilson Story*, which is currently touring the country. The play follows Jackie Wilson's journey through life from elementary school and growing up in Detroit, to his first meeting with Berry Gordy.

"The mother was a very, very close, loving, powerful influence on his life. You see him go through the drugs and the kind of thing America went through, certainly African Americans went through and how they tried to stay strong through it," Moore said recently from her Chicago hotel room.

Moore is enjoying her stint on the black play circuit, but is very aware of the stigma that has thwarted gospel plays as second rate, nonsensical, and demeaning. "Black plays are developing now and I'd like to participate in that, but I also want to be acknowledged for the status that I've achieved." she said.

She was the first black actress to receive a Tony award for her supporting actress performance as Lutiebelle Gussiemae Jenkins in the long-running musical Purlie and her 1990 recording of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was a catalyst in having the song entered into the Congressional Record as the official African American National Anthem.

But all of that came to a halt and if anyone deserved to sing a sad love song, it would have been Moore. After her former husband and manager illegally divorced her through forged documents in the early 90's she was left broke and eventually filed for bankruptcy. She made her story public after she was physically abused.

Down but not out, Moore stayed away from the public's eye until gospel playwright, Michael Matthews, contacted her to do one of his plays. "He basically took me out of harm's way and gave me employment and gave me my start in the gospel world," Moore said.

Now, she's focusing not only on acting, but recently released her first gospel album, *I'm Still Here*. "It has taken me several years to complete that and get it together because you have to have the life first," Moore said. "I'm a Christian. That's my life. God is first, middle, and last."

Rhythm and blues turned gospel singer, Shirley Murdock, penned the title track as an attempt to help Moore tell her testimony. Murdock and her husband Dale Degrote refused to make any kind of financial arrangement, she said. "They said, 'Melba, take the music, shop it, do what you need to do to get your life back together.'"

In addition to her role in *The Jackie Wilson Story*, her gospel album, and new outlook on life; Moore can be seen in the upcoming gospel musical comedy, *The Fighting Temptations* as a part of the all-star cast that includes Cuba Gooding, Jr., Beyonce Knowles, Steve Harvey, Yolanda Adams, Donnie McClurkin, Mary Mary, Angie Stone and others. "It's a hilarious comedy, sort of like a clean *Big Mama's House*," she said of the movie.

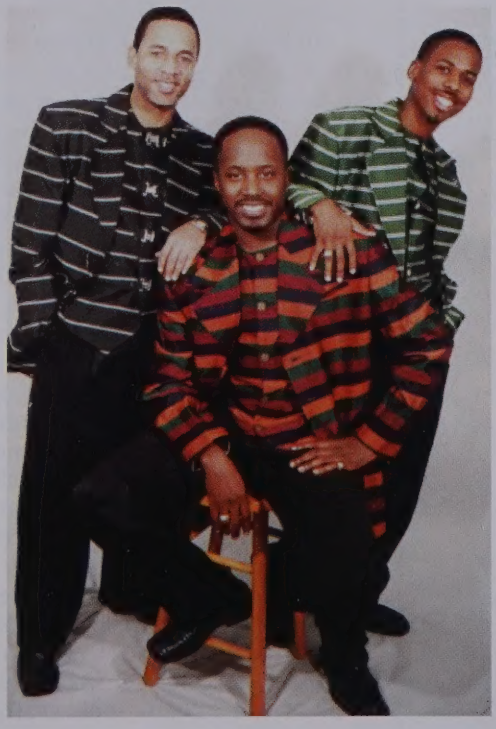
Moore has failed and succeeded in many mediums, but her tenacity, strength, and personal relationship with a higher power has elevated her to a plateau many never reach. Gospel has been her greatest fulfillment.

"You spend your whole life trying to figure out who you are and why you're here," Moore said. "Then you realize you're here to praise God and figure out what he wants to do with you and you weed the rest of it out. It's almost as though you haven't reached the mountaintop but you can see it."

Melba Moore with Martha and Chester Gregory III who plays Mr. Excitement Jackie Wilson, back stage at the Apollo Theatre, New York City.

Best in Show

This Pride season **Men of Rainbow**, the self procliamed 'Best in Male Entertainment' will rock legions of fans at various Black Pride events across the country. The gorgeous chocolate trio not only look good but have the stage presence, timing and dance moves that thrill audiences. But no real vocals on stage. . .yet. "We Lip Sync performances," say Marlowe. We do old R&B classics from The Temptations, Four Tops, Marvin Gaye, Isley Brothers N'Sync, 112, Prince, Lenny Williams, Michael Jackson, Boyz II Men, Ricky Martin, Sysqo, as well as Gospel, and etc." The trio will, however, produce a live CD [using their own vocals] entitled "No Stopping Us Now" scheduled for release late summer. For more information: (410) 356-4655 or www.menofrainbow.com.



Catch Roy, Marlowe and James of **Men of Rainbow** *at an upcoming Black Pride Celebration this August: NYC Black Gay Pride; Pittsburgh, PA Black Gay Pride; National Association of Black and White Men Together- Miami, FL; Jacksonville, FL Black Gay Pride; and Atlanta, GA Black Gay Pride.*

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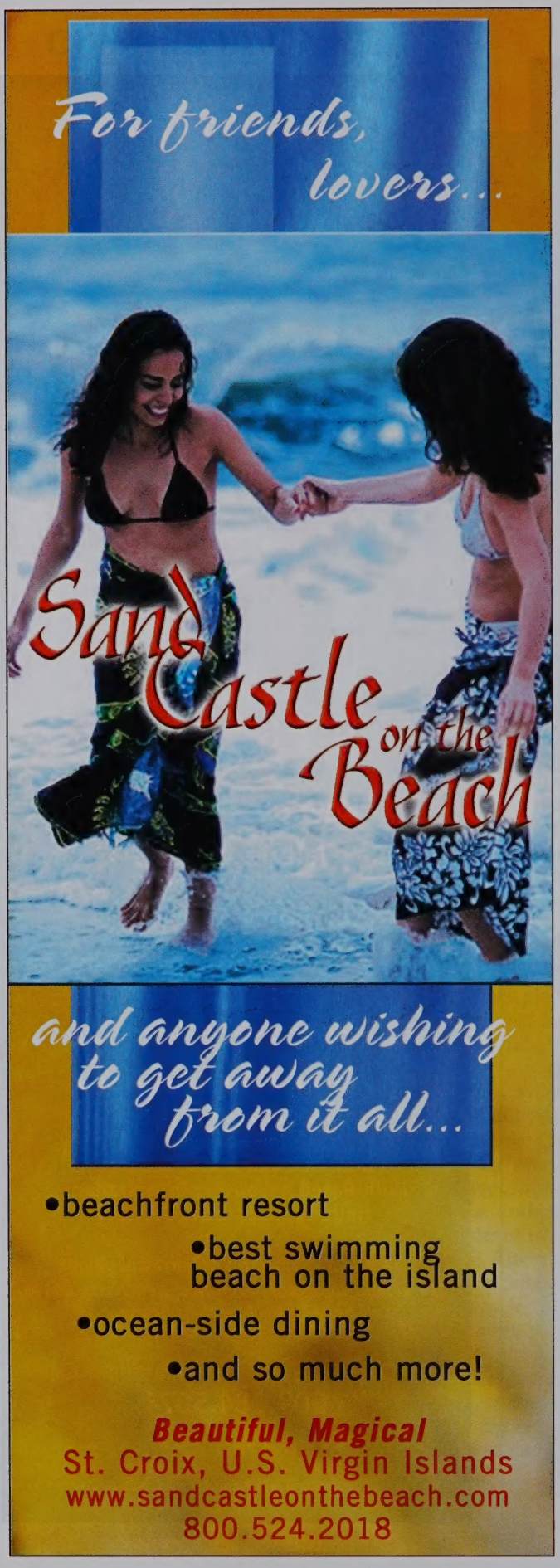
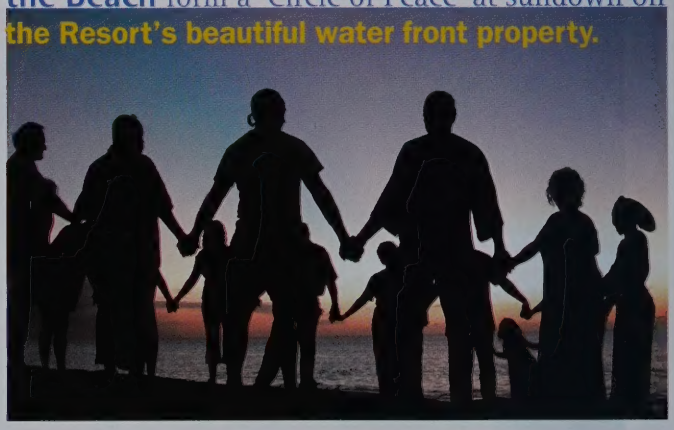


Vacationing guests at St. Croix's **Sand Castle on the Beach** form a 'Circle of Peace' at sundown on the Resort's beautiful water front property.



The Federation

of black prides heads to the mother land

The International Federation of Black Gay Prides (IFBP) and South Africa Black Gay Pride (SABP) will hold the first International Conference of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgender People of African Descent, Imbizo, October 27, 2003 through October 30, 2003 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

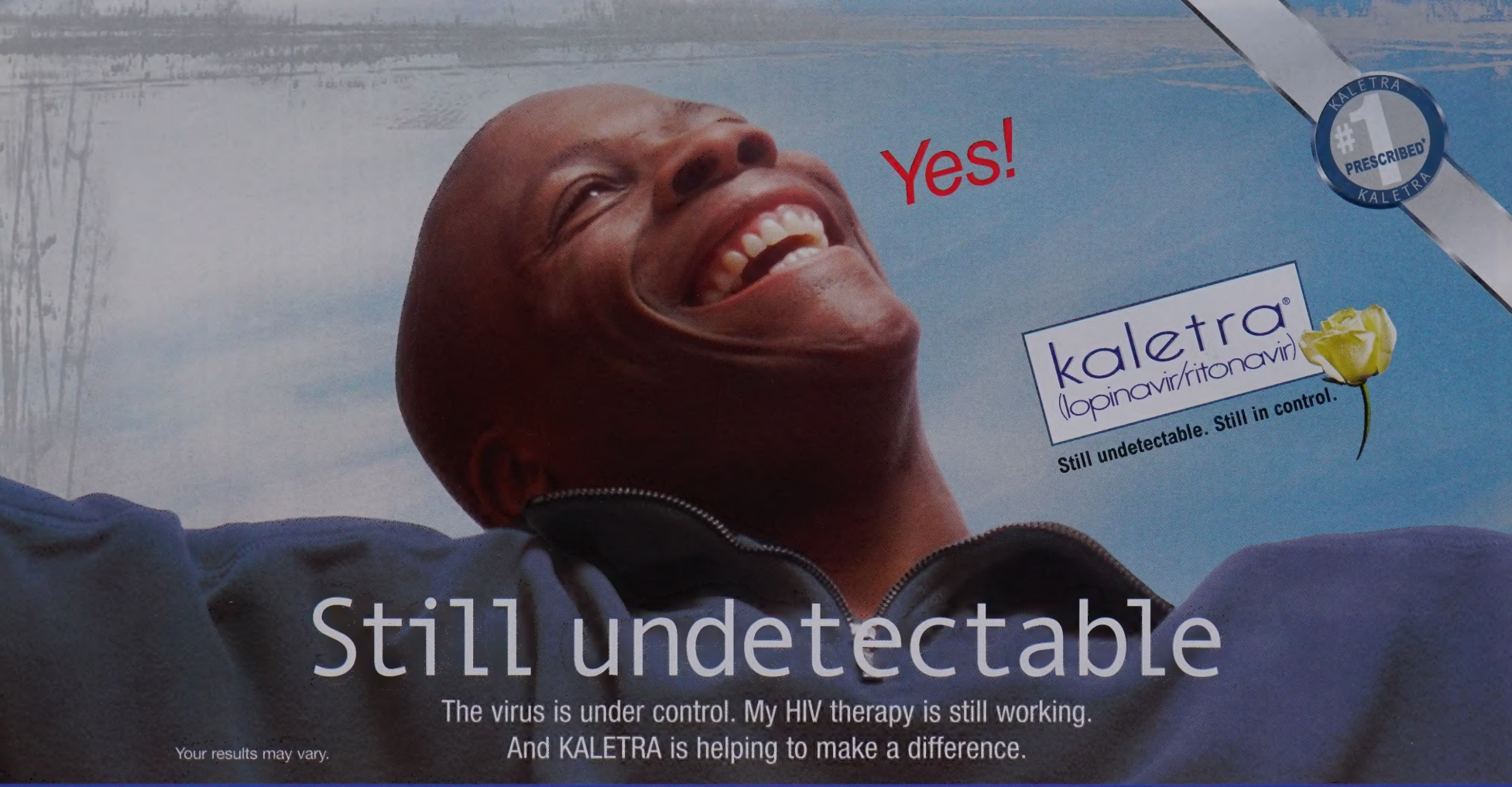
The mission of this historic conference is to bring lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of African descent from across the world together to share thoughts, ideas and information, on three broad subject categories, health, politics and culture, as they relate to the global community of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender persons of African descent. The theme of the conference is Imbizo a Xhosa word that refers to a meeting of elders.

The four (4) day conference will include workshops and plenary sessions with presenters from across the world, an opening reception and banquet and a closing event. "I believe that this will be the first time in history that LGBT people of African descent have ever come together to share their common experiences and those things that make us different at an event of this magnitude," said Earl Fowlkes, conference co-chair.

The dates of the conference also coincide with the fifth annual South African Black Pride week of celebrations that will begin on Sunday, October 26th, 2003 and conclude on Saturday, November 1st, 2003.

Conference registration is now open and will close on September 15, 2003. The Parktonian All Suites Hotel will serve as the official conference hotel. The conference endorsed travel package includes airfare and accommodations. To make travel arrangements contact Keith Stephens at 212/262.6100 ext. 205 or keith@carlsontrvl.com.

For more information about the conference and registration contact conference co-chairs Earl Fowlkes, IFBP President at 202/841.7104 or by e-mail at jrfowlkes@aol.com, and SABP President Andile Vinjiwe at 27 11 624 3235 or andile@africanpride.org. Visit www.africanpride.org.



Still undetectable

The virus is under control. My HIV therapy is still working.
And KALETRA is helping to make a difference.

Your results may vary.

KALETRA is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection in combination with other antiretroviral agents.

Safety Information

KALETRA should not be taken with Halcion®, Hismanal®, Orap®, Propulsid®, Rythmol®, Seldane®, Tambocor™, Versed®, Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, Rifamate®, Mevacor®, Zocor®, ergot derivatives or products containing St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*). Discuss all medicines, including those without a prescription, and herbal preparations you are taking or plan to take with your doctor or pharmacist.

KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA or any of its ingredients.

Pancreatitis and liver problems, which can be fatal, have been reported. Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver disease such as hepatitis. In patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol.

In clinical trials, the most commonly reported side effects of moderate or severe intensity were: abdominal pain, abnormal bowel movements, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache, and nausea. This is not a complete list of reported side effects.

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol.

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing of HIV to others.

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

*Based on IMS HEALTH National Prescription Audit Plus for Protease Inhibitor Class. July 2002–January 2003

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March 2003

Printed in USA

KALETRA®

(lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules
(lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with KALETRA. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

Patient Information

KALETRA®

(kuh-LEE-tra)

Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir
(lop-IN-uh-veer/rit-ON-uh-veer)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD_4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take KALETRA?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?*

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.
  - Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
  - Halcion® (triazolam)
  - Hismanal® (astemizole)
  - Orap® (pimozide)
  - Propulsid® (cisapride)
  - Rythmol® (propafenone)
  - Seldane® (terfenadine)
  - Tambocor™ (flecainide)
  - Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.
- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- **A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:**

Phenobarbital

Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)

Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

- **Other Special Considerations:**

  KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

- If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:

  Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.
- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abdominal pain, abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.
- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- *If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:* The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- *If you are breast-feeding:* Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- *If you have liver problems:* If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- *If you have diabetes:* Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- *If you have hemophilia:* Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.
- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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Ref.: 03-5239-R8

03A-036-6510-1 **MASTER**

Revised: January, 2003

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"I've got a secret to share. Located right in the heart of Philly's upscale shopping district is **Alma de Cuba**, serving what is best described as "Nuevo Latino," a must do on your next visit."

words by Michael Andre Adams

getting there:

Location: 1623 Walnut St., Philadelphia , (215) 988-1799, www.almadecubarestaurant.com
Hours: Dinner Only! Monday thru Thursday, 5-11 p.m Friday's & Saturday's till midnight; Sunday's 5-10 p.m.
Cocktails: $9 Wines: $8-13 per glass; Ceviche: $9-15; Soups:$6; Appetizers: $9-14
Entrees: $19-31 Deserts: $8

When was the last time you visited Philadelphia? The City of Brotherly Love has transformed itself into an Epicurean's delight! Master chefs are everywhere! Even Murimoto, the "Iron Chef" himself, has a restaurant there. No longer are visitors and residents alike required to make the hour and a half trek north to New York for world class cuisine.

If you're the fried food, meat and potatoes type, Delilah's, in the Reading Terminal on Arch at 12th , sets it off for lunch, according to my dear friend, local designer, Andre Thomas. Warm Daddy's on Front Street at Market, features soul food and live blues in a colorfully stimulating atmosphere. If an elegant helping of jazz served up as a side entrée to a delicious cat fish dinner is what you had in mind, try Zanzibar Blue on Broad Street below the prestigious Bellevue Hotel, just south of city hall.

For the more cutting edge and risqué individual living on the edge of discovery, I've got a secret to share. Located right in the heart of Philly's upscale shopping district is Alma de Cuba. Serving what is best described as "Nuevo Latino," Alma de Cuba is a must do on your next visit.

Fine dining in the form of edible art is how they do it. Every item served is both picturesque and delectable. Craig LaBan from the Philadelphia Enquirer so eloquently described a dish there as "Displayed in all its terrifying intrigue, what looked like a tiny clamshell with a beak attached to one side trailed a plume of crablike meat out the other and was perched on what looked like a hollowed-out rock filled with flan. The rock, in fact, was the barnacle's shell, and the mildly sea-flavored flan (made with barnacle juice) hid a few sweet surprises – dates and caramelized onion – in its custard." Are we talking food or art? I'd say both!

From the bar, my suggestion is the Alma Colada. Made with passion fruit juice, coconut milk and white rum blended and topped with Myers's dark rum and shaved coconut, you'll taste it and feel it.

Once seated an elegant selection of Ceviche heads up the menu. Choose from main lobster and crab, Ecuadorian shrimp, rainbow-a trilogy of tuna, salmon and merluza, a flaky white Chilean fish, and a few others. Ceviche is one of those either you like it or you don't kind of dishes. Like the secret to good sushi, my suggestion for Ceviche consumption is that you go where you know the fish is fresh and you wont go wrong in the restaurant or later that night, if you feel me.

As a lover of gourmet soups, a natural choice was the trio of soups: small portions of Gloria's black bean, with creamy rice croquettes and a drizzle of sour cream, sancocho de pollo, a coconut-chicken broth with poached chicken slices, yucca, carrots, cilantro, green peas and a touch of lime juice. Rounding out the trilogy is the calabaza soup, a puree of spiced calabaza with pepita crusted queso fresco and a drizzle of sage oil. I've come up with some masterful creations at home, none of which could

Continued on page 46

Life and Style According to A.L.T.

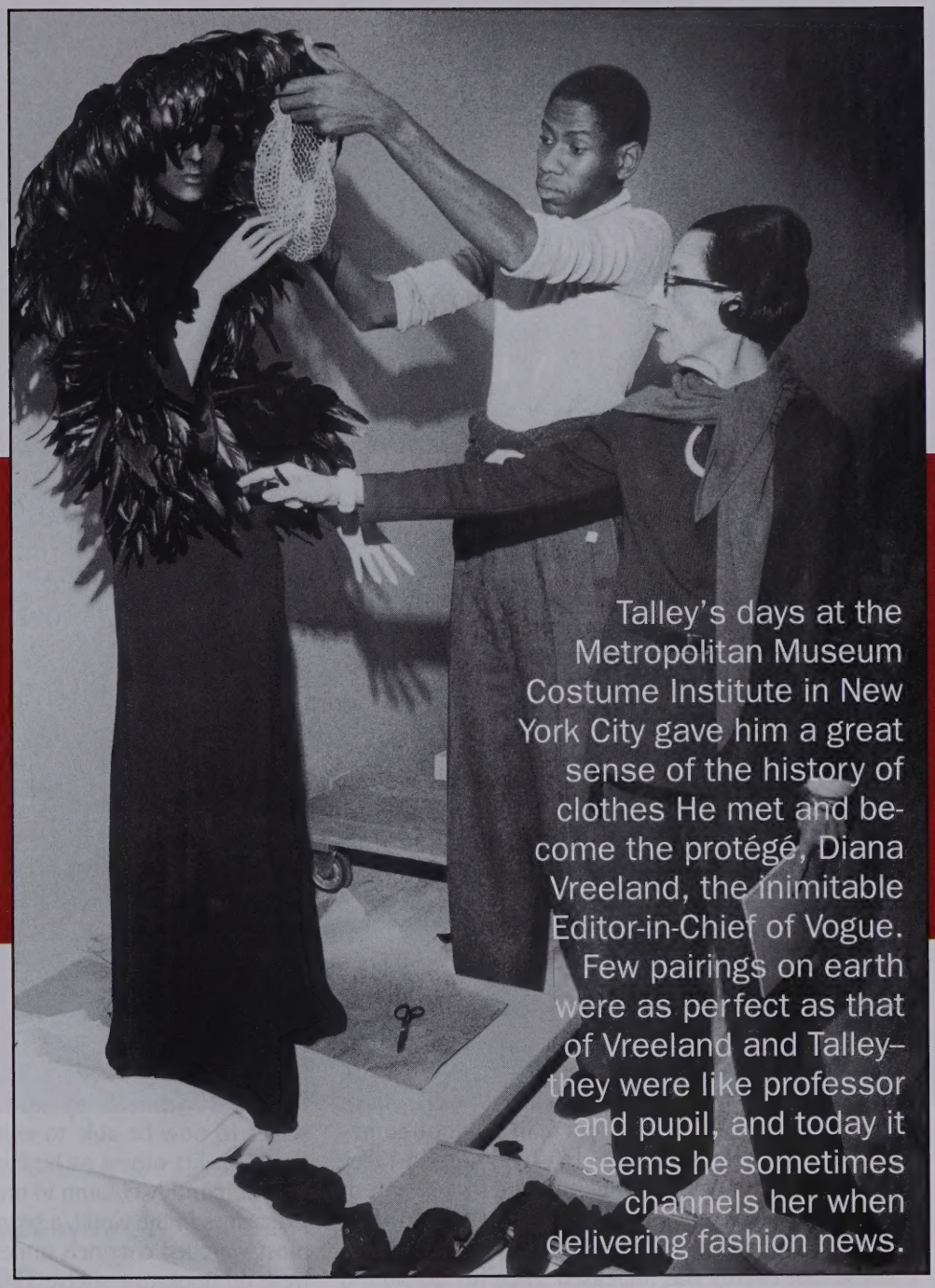
Words by Prince-Leon Kusi
Edited by Michael K. Watts.
Images by Arthur Elgort

A glimpse at the life of one of the world's most influential fashion icons

In the fashion demimonde, even amongst supermodels and superstar designers, his name looms above all others: Andre Leon Talley. With an appellation which seems to point to his parents' prescience about his greatness, Vogue's six-foot-seven Editor at Large often gets as much attention as the fashionistas about whom he writes. As one of the country's premier style arbiters, working at the nation's premier fashion magazine, Talley is largely responsible for influencing the tastes and trends that trickle down throughout America. Using his "Style Fax" column as his vehicle, he has devoted his life to sifting through all of the would-be fabulous designs and bringing his readers the best of the best, each and every month. But it was a long journey for Talley to rise to the top of the fashion world, as he details in his new book, "A.L.T.: A Memoir" (Villard Books).

Talley's story is one that finds him in the center of two very important women in his life who taught him life's most enduring lessons. Born in Washington D.C., Talley was raised by his maternal grandmother, Bennie Frances Davis, in Durham, North Carolina. Davis was a dignified and hard-working maid who cleaned the men's dormitories at Duke University. Theirs was a loving home full of simple luxuries--pressed sheets, beautiful church clothes and savory family meals. It was an upbringing that instilled a sense of place, strong values and unshakeable faith that would serve him well in his quest to become a fashion editor, a career choice he made known at the tender age of 14. One can imagine the sound of jaws dropping as he communicated this goal to Durham locals.

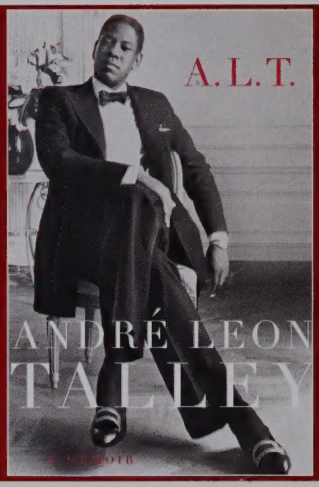
Undeterred and taking his grandmother's advice to "see a world full of possibilities" to heart, he earned his Master's Degree in French studies from Brown University and went on to become an intern at the Metropolitan Museum Costume Institute in New York City. His days at the Costume Institute



Talley's days at the Metropolitan Museum Costume Institute in New York City gave him a great sense of the history of clothes He met and become the protégé, Diana Vreeland, the inimitable Editor-in-Chief of Vogue. Few pairings on earth were as perfect as that of Vreeland and Talley–they were like professor and pupil, and today it seems he sometimes channels her when delivering fashion news.

gave him a great sense of the history of clothes, evident in all of his fashion commentary. His experience there also gave him the opportunity to meet and become the protégé of another important woman in his life, Diana Vreeland, the inimitable Editor-in-Chief of Vogue. Vreeland would have an enormous influence on the way that Talley would see, think about, and write about fashion.

Vreeland was no ordinary fashion journalist. For her, fashion editing was not just a job; it was a calling, and her commitment to her profession was unceasing. She was a woman who, after a trip to Japan, was seldom seen without her Kabuki-style makeup. Her avant garde style was best epitomized in her "Why Don't You" column in which she offered suggestions to American women by asking such things as, "Why don't you wear a bathing suit to the office?" There are few pairings on earth as perfect as that of Vreeland and Talley--they were like professor and pupil, and today it seems he sometimes channels her



Talley was raised by his maternal grandmother, Bennie Frances Davis, in Durham, North Carolina. Theirs was a loving home was full of simple luxuries--pressed sheets, beautiful church clothes and savory family meals. It was an upbringing that instilled a sense of place, strong values and unshakeable faith.

when delivering fashion news. Commenting on Helmut Lang's Fall 2002 line of women's shoes Talley said, "You'll be rewarded, wear them to bed, put them up on the pillow." This was a classic example of his special brand of Vreeland-esque delivery which has made him, the star maker, a star himself.

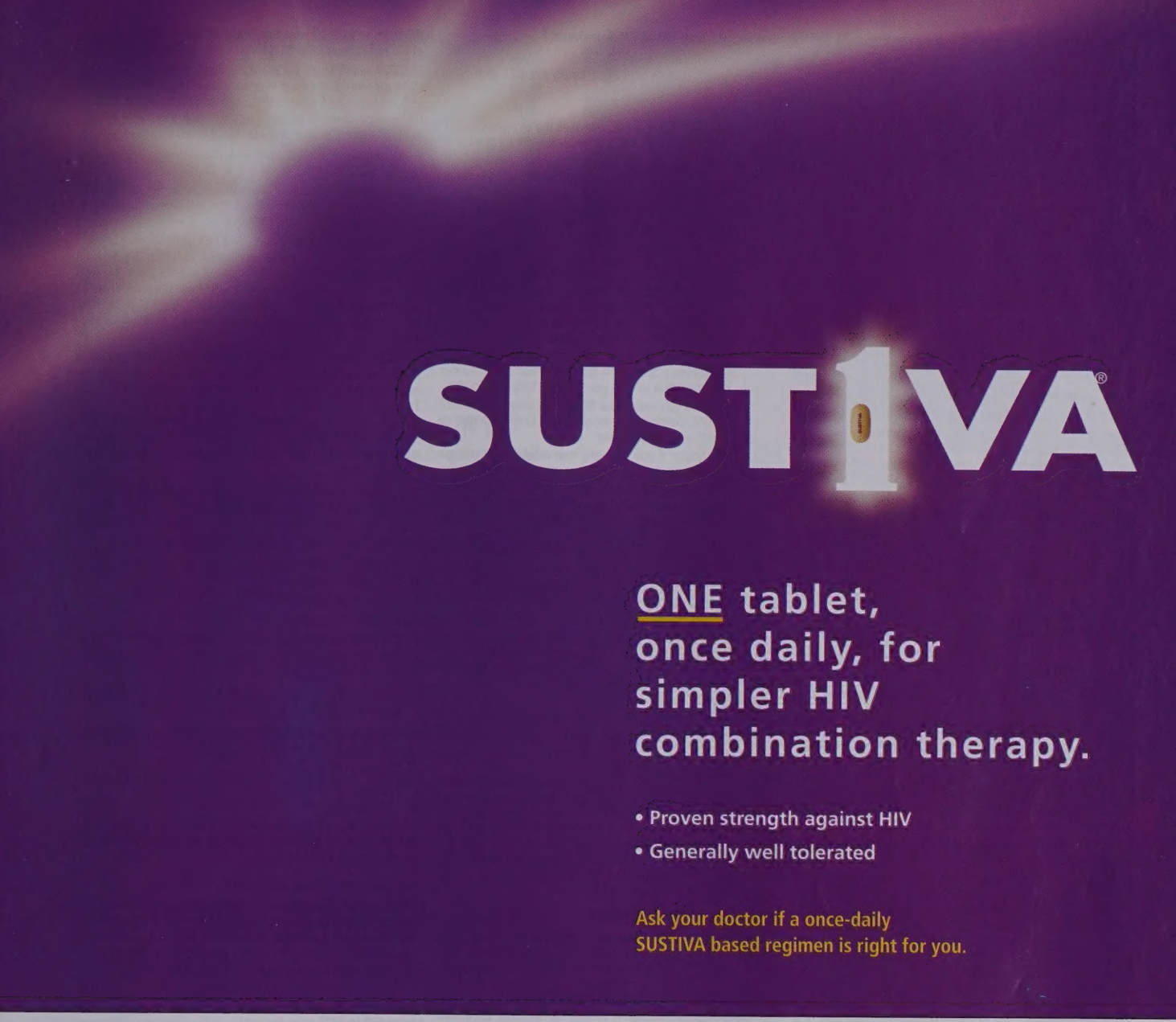
And as with everyone from J. Lo to Star Jones, this newfound stardom led to the next logical step: television. Last year, Talley was the gracious host of "Vogue's Talley," a weekly segment on Metro TV's Full Frontal Fashion show in New York, which garnered him an Emmy nomination. His words were always impeccably well chosen, his phrases well turned. But to hear the man himself actually saying them increased their value by at least 100 percent. Unlike with the magazine, this show gave him the opportunity to highlight both black and gay designers, models, and fashion insiders. Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, modeling coach J. Alexander, models Alek Wek and Iman, and even his pastor, Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts III, have all found themselves in front of Talley's cameras. J. Alexander, all six-foot-something of him, even put on his pumps and showed Talley how he teaches models to walk. In one installment of "Vogue's Talley," he was riding through New York in Karl Lagerfeld's deluxe SUV when he asked the designer if his sexual energy has increased since his 90-pound weight loss. Now, you would have never seen that in Vogue!

Perhaps it is the journalistic instinct, but for Talley self-promotion never seems to be the goal. He is happy for his recognition to come as a by-product of him recognizing others. This is most refreshing and unusual in an industry that is fueled at least as much by ego as by talent. Even in those moments which are set aside as times for him to be recognized, he manages to turn the focus to others. While receiving a lifetime achievement award at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology during New York's Fashion Week, Talley spent the majority of his acceptance speech on a roll call of black people who have made a difference in this country. So extensive and inclusive was the list that it even included Mae West, because "she hired a lot of colored maids in her movies."

Unlike with the magazine, this [television] show gave him the opportunity to highlight both black and gay designers, models, and fashion insiders.

He may enjoy shining the spotlight on others rather than standing in its glare, but his time to shine is long overdue. Having been a fixture in the fashion world for over 30 years, Talley has truly paid his dues and deserves to now be able to enjoy the ride. Yet, he continues to lift others as he climbs. With a hugely successful monthly column in one of the most well-known magazines in the world, a segment on one of New York's most watched channels under his belt, and his memoir fresh on bookstore shelves, it is safe to say that Talley is not only the King of Fashion but also the King of Fashion Media.

And strangely, none of it seems to have gone to his head. He still goes to church in Harlem every Sunday, he still flies coach, and he still eats Krispy Kreme doughnuts, as he wrote about in his July 2002 column. In spite of his down-to-earth manner and his resistance to the uppity tendencies favored by most fashion hounds, Talley has come a mighty long way. And because he is discontented taking the ride alone, we have all come a long way, a mighty, mighty long way.



SUSTIVA (efavirenz) in combination with other antiretroviral agents is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or prevent passing HIV to others.

Safety Information

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams. These feelings tend to go away after taking the medication for a few weeks. Mild to moderate rash is another common side effect. A small number of patients have reported severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. There have been a few reports of suicide but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. SUSTIVA should not be taken with Hismanal® (astemizole), Propulsid® (cisapride), Versed® (midazolam), Halcion® (triazolam) or ergot derivatives. Tell your doctor about any medications or herbal products (particularly St. John's wort) that you are taking. Women should not become pregnant or breast-feed while taking SUSTIVA.

Please see important information about SUSTIVA on next page.

ONE Tablet
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efavirenz

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www.sustiva.com

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T4-K0003 11/02

℞ ONLY

PATIENT INFORMATION

SUSTIVA®* (sus-TEE-vah)

[efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)] capsules and tablets

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with SUSTIVA.

Please also read the section **"MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA."**

Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used in combination with other medicines to help treat infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of anti-HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Serious psychiatric problems. A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Common side effects. Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash is common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

General Information

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.
- Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

Capsules

- The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).

Tablets

- The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA?

- **Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant.** Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. **Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
- **Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you

- **have problems with your liver, or have hepatitis.** Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- **have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, **it is very important to:**

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your prescription and non-prescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

Taking SUSTIVA with St. John's wort *(hypericum perforatum)*, an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA**:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Fortovase®, Invirase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Mycobutin® (rifabutin)
- Methadone

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

General advice about SUSTIVA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59° to 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at http://www.sustiva.com or call 1-800-426-7644.

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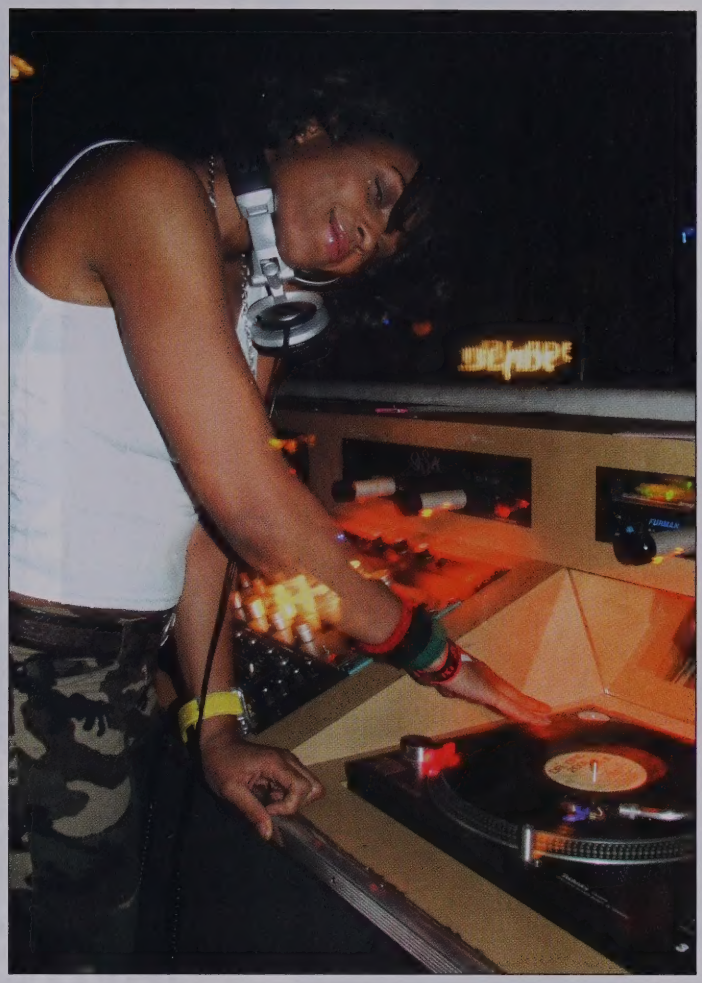
Lady DJ

Award-Winning Women Rockin' the One and Twos

words and photography by Tina Paul



DJ BEVERLY BOND at Joe's Pub/NYC

New Line Cinema and Black Diamonds presented Blade 2 /House of Pain premiere party at Centro Fly hosted by Wesley Snipes with DJs Beverly Bond, Tracy Young, Liquid Todd and E-Love.

The Gotham Celebrity DJ series at Joe's Pub that other night was packed with urban music-industry types and their hangers-on. Beautiful model-DJ Beverly Bond WORKED the dance floors! She also release an album last summer. She's not singing on it–just produced all the tracks, with other guests handling the vocals.

Look for her party, WQMB, at club Candy, in collaboration with former Tribe Called Quest frontman Q-Tip and "DJ to the Stars" Mark Ronson. "We're playing hip-hop and soul. Like, real good hip-hop" said Bond. "You know what I mean?" I think so, Bev.

DJ HEATHER at Seasons/Afterhours/All World-Chicago

DJ Heather, Chicago's best-kept secret, has been spending the least amount of her time on the international circuit. Heather's style has become synonymous with her special delivery of underground house, with elements of techno and classic disco. "Many things influence me, more than just one sound. If it's quality music and I enjoy it, I'll play that record...You have to bring a little bit of everything to what you do and that makes for a broader experience." Heather is a Chicago house pioneer trained in the art of transforming dance floors into jumpin'-bumpin' stomping ground.

Quickly becoming one of America's most in-demand DJs, Heather has demonstrated her sharp ability to take hold of the masses - from Vancouver to Toronto, to Berlin, France and Ibiza, Heather is tearing up the floors. DJ Heather has shared the stage with Jamiroquai, Black Grape, and performs as one-third of SUPERJANE, an entity comprised of three very different, but equally determined double-deck talents. Together, DJ Heather, Dayhota and Colette are Chicago's first and only all-female DJ collective.

DJ KAYO from London

DJ Kayo Plays a seamless blend of dance provoking House wrapped in the finest rythms. She played in Miami last summer with 6 other female DJ's called "7 AND 7" (SEVEN INTERNATIONAL FEMALE DJS) at Tantra and at Opium Garden for Essential Mix Party.

Vocalist TAMARA WALLACE

Murk boys Oscar Gaetan and Ralph Falcon were hyped more on respect than sales figures before they broke out of the American dance mainstream with two of the biggest hits of 1996-97, "Get Fired Up!" and "The Way" by Funky Green Dogs. Gaetan and Falcon had been producing for their own Murk Recordings since the early '90s, and had earned club-play with hits by Liberty City "Some Lovin'," "If You Love Someone" and remixes for Madonna, Pet Shop Boys, the Beloved and RuPaul, among others. After the album "Get Fired Up" appeared in late 1996, a second single "The Way" hit number one on the dance charts. The duo added new vocalist Tamara Wallace, a native of the Bahamas, for their second album "Star."

Though they've added a new singer and moved a bit farther toward actual songwriting, the Murk boys prove they still know their way around some crucial tribal-house grooves. Tamara adds more emotional flair to Funky Green Dogs than past records, and the single "Body" is more than just an interesting club tune.

DJ PAULETTE Nervous/Ministry of Sound

Paulette is one of the most stunning and inspiring radio presenters Ministry has. She's been in front of the mic and camera for so much of her life that fronting Ministry's mid-mornings is merely natural progression! From a Radio 1 series in1994 to fronting a youth TV show on Granada, she's now the face of *MTV Dance* alongside Judge Jules. On top of a best selling album on Nervous Records, DJ-ing around the world and recently working for Azuli, she's been a regular Ministry Of Sound Radio presenter since the launch a year ago. Pauiette's cheeky and endearing on air persona regularly bags her up to 200 emails per show from fans worldwide and her music choices are inspirational. There's no doubt Paulette is in the ascendancy - remember where you heard her!

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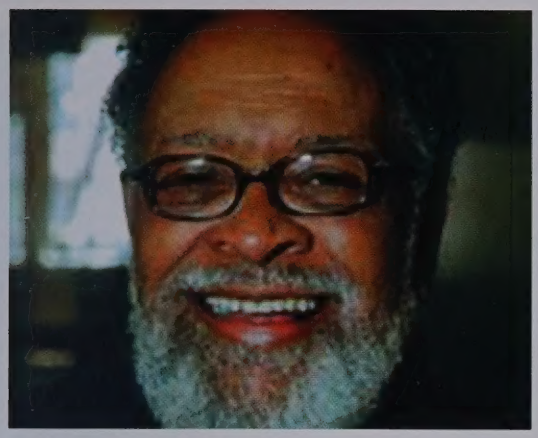
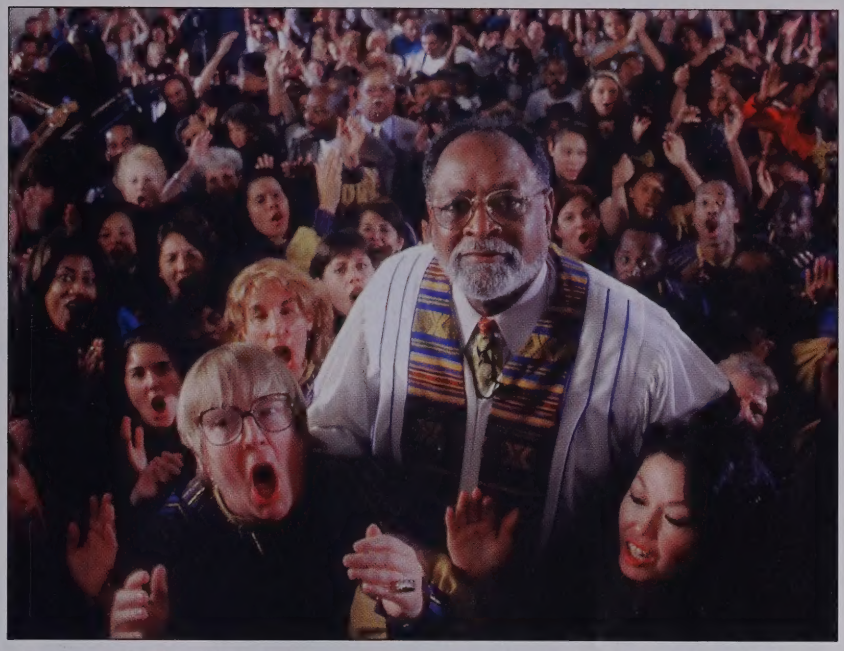




THE-COME-AS-YOU ARE MINISTRY OF The Rev. CECIL WILLIAMS

words by Stanley Bennett Clay

Images by Nita Winter

Reverend Cecil Williams will be featured in the six-part PBS documentary This Far by Faith: African-American Spiritual Journeys *airing June 24-26, 2003 at 9 pm. Check your local listings.*

On February 16, 1974, kidnapped newspaper heiress Patty Hearst made an audiotape explanation defending her SLA captives. She trusted Reverend Cecil Williams to make the delivery to her family. In San Francisco and indeed the world the choice of emissary seemed only logical. The young radical minister, who eight years earlier took over the failing Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, located in San Francisco's notorious red light district known as The Tenderloin, had quickly earned a reputation for bridging the divide between acceptance and rejection, hope and hopelessness. Glide Memorial, under the 37 year guidance of Reverend Williams, has gone from a 35-member white middleclass church in 1966 to an 11,000 member sanctuary today that welcomes all faiths, races, nationalities and sexual orientations.

"The church is not four walls. The church is the people," says Williams. "We relate to people, no matter who they are or what they're into. About 40% of our church is gay and I love it," Williams says from his San Francisco church office.

"The church aught not deny people. In the New Testament I don't see anywhere where Jesus rejected anybody. It is unChristian to deny people the right to accept themselves as they are."

Born in the small Jim Crow southern town of San Angelo, Texas (population 35,000) during the early 1930's, Cecil Williams knew he had a calling from a very young age.

"Cecil was called rare," remembers his older brother Reedy. "He knew as a kid of 10 or 12 exactly what he was going to do in life. He always spoke his mind."

After high school Cecil became one of the first African Americans to attend Southern Methodist University where he admits he "failed miserably." He then headed west and studied at Berkeley during the beat generation, but it was later in Kansas City, Missouri where his radicalism came into full swing and he became a student and advocate of Liberation Theology.

The new young minister was then sent to San Francisco where he was assigned to pastor Glide immediately scandalizing the small, conservative white congregation by stepping over the pulpit and preaching in the aisle.

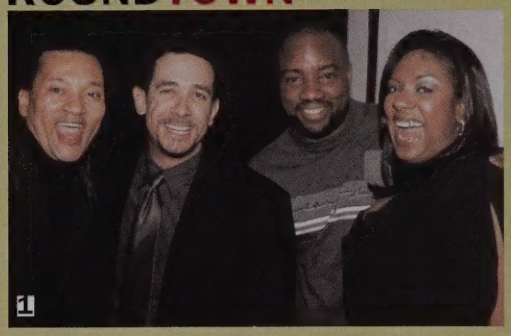
"I took the cross down in the church too because the suffering is not up there. It's down here with the people."

When his outraged congregants could not get him fired they left. Undaunted Reverend Williams canvassed the blighted neighborhood that surrounded him. He went to bars, to the streets, to the parks and crack dens. He spoke to prostitutes and drug addicts, the homeless and the ailing, the poor and the down-trodden. His message of acceptance and inclusion was as infectious as the live jazz-gospel music he soon had blaring from the sanctuary of Glide Memorial. Soon the pews began to fill with a diverse crowd of people, many of them feeling loved and accepted for the first time.

"We must always keep our ears to the drumbeat of the people. We must always be on the cutting edge, to be there for the people who are suffering."

Speakers as diverse as Angela Davis and Hillary Clinton before the congregation which includes an 8 piece band and a 140 voice choir ("Brother, we get down up in here," Reverend Williams laughs). Glide's staff and volunteers also serve over a million meals a year to the hungry while providing shelter and support to battered women and persons living with HIV/AID.

"The church must lead the way in humanizing, not de-humanizing people," says the outspoken minister, author, lecturer, husband, father and grandfather. "We must engage in unconditional love and unconditional acceptance. I am convinced that that is what we are supposed to be doing!



The Stars of Broadway came out in full force last Spring to congratulate Kevin Anthony and Sean Hollingsworth on the occasion of their one year anniversary of the baddest show in town, Black 2 Broadway. The Supper Club in the heart of Manhattan was filled to capacity with entertainment industry insiders eager to feel the fire. The all star performance cast did not disappoint!

Black 2 Broadway Celebrates a Milestone

Artography by Koi Sojer

1. Kevin Anthony, Sean Hollingsworth (producers of B2B), Malik Yoba & Alyson Williams 2. Ron Grant, Ramona Keller, Victor Cook, and BJ Crosby 3. Marva Hicks, Angelique Francis and Star Jones 4. Shirley Murdock & Darryl Tookes 5. Onaje Alan Gumbs, Lilies White, Ron Grant & Alyson Williams

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what i wish my mama had known

words by Tina Fakhrid-Deen

"I often felt, lonely, ashamed, fearful, guilty, and detached. I never told my mother how I felt because I never wanted to hurt her. I knew that she got enough of that from everyone else. As a result, she assumed that everything was fine. Most gay parents do make that incorrect assumption. "

I am a 29 year-old Black heterosexual woman and my mother is a lesbian. She came out to me when I was about 10. It went something like this:

"Do you love Michael Jackson?"

"Yup," I said.

"Well, what if I told you that Michael Jackson was gay?"

"Then I'd call you a lie." (long pause)

"What if I told you that I was gay?"

"Then I'd say so what."

That was the last childhood conversation that I recall us having about my mother's sexual orientation. However, that was not the only time the topic came up. Her homosexuality came up when my grandmother told me that I should come and live with her and get away from my mother and her "nasty ways." It popped up at several churches when the pastor unknowingly demonized my mother by saying that all gays would go to hell. It reared its head in school when kids mocked my gay teacher or when they said ignorant things like "that's so gay" or any other flurry of anti-gay attacks such as dyke, sissy, bulldagger, and faggot.

It slithered in when I asked my mom to use her car, praying that folks would not know what the rainbow sticker in the window represented. It jumped out when people mistakenly referred to my mama as "sir" because she was so butch. It bounced around in my head when I only saw male-female relationships portrayed on television and in my favorite movies. It crept up when I decided to remain a virgin beyond high school because for a while I, along with the boys trying to get into my pants, thought I might be gay. My point is that it came up damn near everyday – loud and clear. There was no way to ignore or distance myself from my mother's sexual identity and no one to discuss it with.

I often felt, lonely, ashamed, fearful, guilty, and detached. I never told my mother how I felt because I never wanted to hurt her. I knew that she got enough of that from everyone else. As a result, she assumed that everything was fine. Most gay parents do make that incorrect assumption.

Now, I am not making any arguments against gay parenting and; nor am saying that I was negatively affected by my mother being lesbian. If you are gay, lesbian, bi or trans, keep doing you. I applaud you for being yourself and living your life without compromise. However, as a parent, you have a responsibility to your children to communicate with them regarding the issues they may face as kids with LGBT parents. Parents cannot assume that their job is done once they have openly come out to their kids. This has to be a continuous conversation, especially during their adolescent years and especially in the homophobic Black community. Our culture does not tend to support its LGBT constituents nor their families. Our families are on a large scale, invisible and un-

accepted. Ignoring this fact leaves your children more vulnerable to heterosexist, cultural bullcrap and that's what can negatively affect their development.

As an adult child of a gay parent, having worked often with children of LGBT parents and looking back at the things that my own mother could have done a little better, I think I have a few credentials to impart some advice. I would like to provide a basic roadmap to Black LGBT parents:

1) Understand that when you come out, your children eventually have to fall out of the closet too. Although it may not be of the same magnitude, we share some of the same fears and issues that you faced during your coming out process (i.e. fear of backlash, dealing with religious issues, internal shame, feelings of despair, loneliness, etc.) Therefore, don't be surprised if your child has a hard time accepting you or accepting themselves as children with LGBT parents. We all have a desire to "fit in" on some level and our lives definitely do not fit into the traditional family mold. In most cases, it took you years to accept yourself as gay, so do not expect it to be an immediate, uncomplicated process for your children.

2) Understand that many of us do have issues with our parents being gay due to the massive societal pressures of living in a "straight" world. I have heard parents say that their kids are fine with them being gay and this may be true but do not put on the rose-colored contacts just yet. Per Abigail Garner, author of *Families Like Mine*, between infancy and prior to middle-school, kids tend to feel safer about their parents being gay because society has not stepped in full force to challenge that notion yet. Once kids get to an age where they 1) are more independent, 2) can intellectually process information, and 3) care about what their peers think, the floodgates of media, family, peers, and religion step in to thwart all of your family affirmation efforts. Do not be anybody's fool. We have not reached the mountaintop just yet. You must put your children in spiritual, social and educational environments where they are affirmed and can see reflections of themselves, especially as Black youth. First, find a spiritual center that supports Black LGBT families. Then, find a youth support group for your children like COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere.) If you cannot find an organization that fit their needs, stop complaining and start your own group. You can begin by getting your friends' kids all together in one space with some pizza and music. Make sure that it is free of nosy adults since you will probably be using someone's home initially. Given enough opportunities to be together, the children will begin to forge healthy and supportive relationships and create a space for them to discuss issues important to them. Last, make sure that your children's schools are LGBT friendly. It is difficult enough to learn without negative messages about gays swarming around your children. I dare to say that most schools in predominantly Black communities have not begun the important task of protecting Black LGBT youth in the academic setting, which means that your children are not protected either. Help schools to form gay and straight alliances. Break the myth that being gay is a white reality.

> "Parents cannot assume that their job is done once they have openly come out to their kids. This has to be a continuous conversation, especially during their adolescent years and especially in the homophobic Black community."

3) Listen to your children. Sometimes, as Black parents we follow our own parents' authoritarian style of parenting where kids should be seen and not heard. That is not going to work this time, so hang it up. Let them talk freely about their feelings about having a gay parent and some of the unique difficulties they may face. Sometimes we are reluctant to speak our minds for fear that we will either hurt our parents' feelings, be seen as disrespectful, or invoke anger. If your children fear that there will be repercussions if they open their mouths, then it will be impossible to have open, honest dialogue. Even if they are not talking much, watch the behavior they exhibit at home and at

Continued on page 46

a vigil and a verdict

the murderer of an Atlanta attorney is acquitted of all charges

words by Craig Washington

On March 22, 2003 Atlanta organizers held a candlelight vigil in downtown Marietta to protest the acquittal of Roderquis Rashad Reed, who was charged with the May 2001 murder of Ahmed Dabarran, a 32 year-old closeted black gay man originally from Somalia. Dabarran was a highly respected Fulton County assistant attorney. Reed bludgeoned Dabarran to death in his sleep and admitted to taking his victims car and cell phone afterward yet was acquitted of all charges.

The charges included malice murder, felony murder, aggravated assault and theft. The organizers considered the Cobb County trial a mockery of justice that was manipulated by the use of the "gay panic" defense. Vigil organizers highlighted not only the defense team's tactics but the abject negligence and homophobia displayed by the Cobb County prosecutor Tom Cole. Steve Koval who convened the vigil committee days after the Feb. 28 verdict, told attendants, "Ahmed (Dabarran) was victimized three times, once by his brutal murder, a second time by the disgusting lies his murdered told at the trial...and finally by the justice system which he served so faithfully."

Among the speakers were Faisal Dabarani, Dabarran's brother and Holly Hughes, a colleague who is prosecuting the highly publicized hate crimes case against a Morehouse student charged with beating another student with a baseball bat last November. The event included performances by Adodi Muse, the self-described gay Negro ensemble and the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus. Fulton County Assistant DA Tamarra Ross recited a wrenching poem.

The Promise
Will somebody speak for me
Will somebody tell of the joy with which I lived
The compassion I shared
The dedication with which I served
Will somebody please speak for me
Fifteen blows to my skull
I can speak no more.

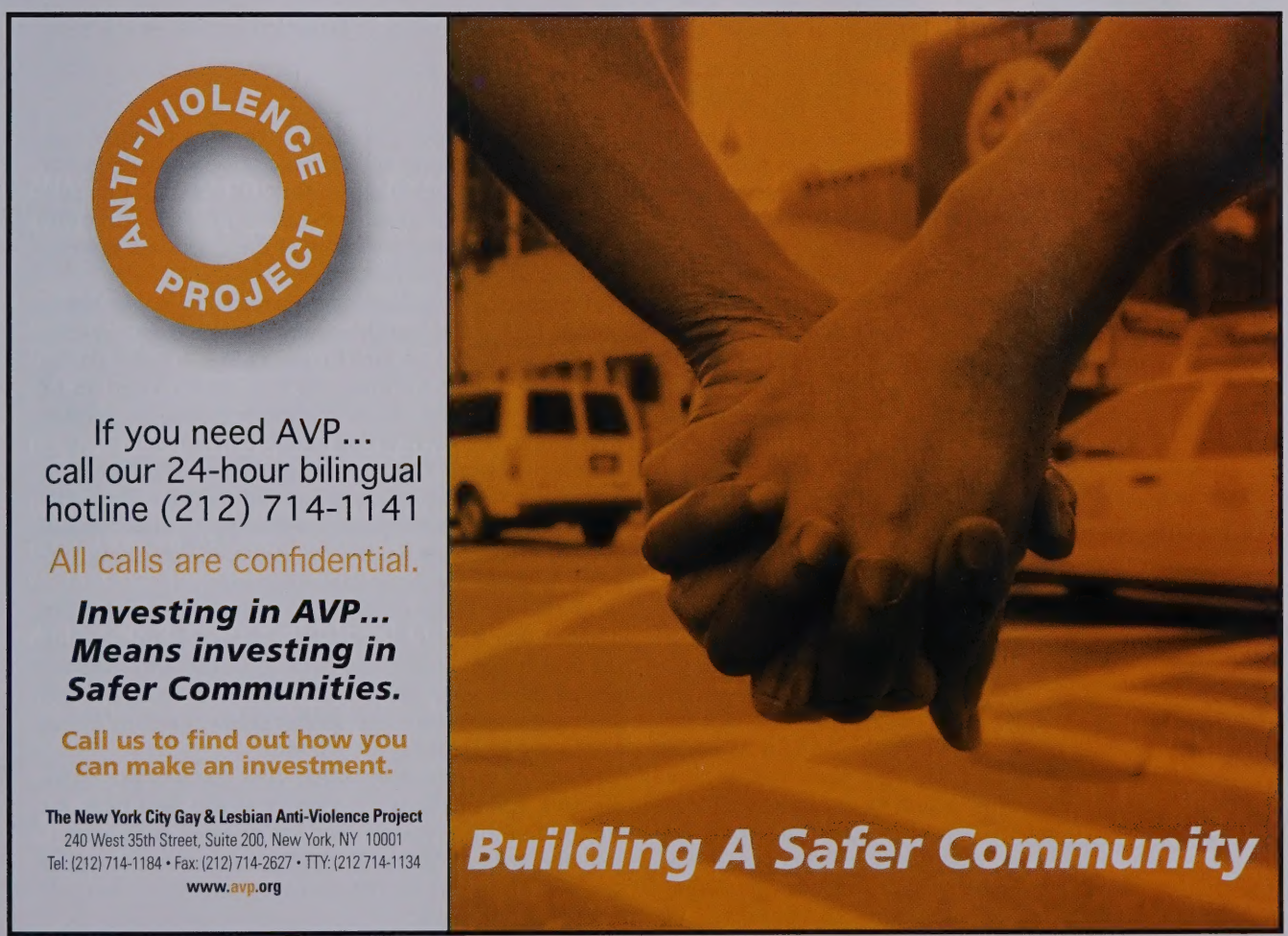
At the trial Reed's attorney Vic Reynolds stated that Reed, a 21 year old black man, and Dabarran met through a chat line. Dabarran invited Reed to a party at his apartment "where there would be lots of girls." A friend of Reed's testified that after Reed arrived at Dabarran's apartment, Dabarran and an unidentified man were playing "homosexual porno tapes." Reynolds said that when Reed objected, Dabarran performed oral sex on him at gunpoint. Reed admitted to hitting him in the head with a pot after he had fallen asleep after drinking rum for hours in order to escape. The Cobb County medical examiner testified that Dabarran had been hit 15 times with a blunt object and that his skull was beaten into his spine. His decomposing body was found in his apartment three days later after colleagues alerted Cobb police that he was missing.

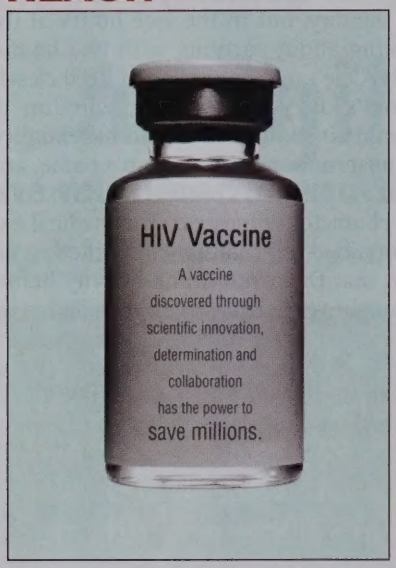
In his closing argument Vic Reynolds offered the following paradoxical portrait of Dabarran. "By day an educated, articulate, felony prosecutor, a married man. The other side of a coin is a man who was on chat lines with teenagers, who frequented gay bars, who preferred street males. A man who picked up other men – a life of deceit. That lifestyle had an effect on my client." The gay panic defense is a commonly used defense attorney's strategy crafted to manipulate anti-gay biases embedded throughout the system and society to justify their defendant's victimization of gays and lesbians. It has often been successfully employed to ensure the acquittal of perpetrators whose guilt appears unquestionable. This device is in many ways an adaptation of tactics used to defend lynching, racist police brutality, and the rape and abuse of women. The defense attorney underscores those acts and characteristics of the victim that are associated with negative stereotypes historically assigned to the victim's

> "The gay panic defense is a commonly used defense attorney's strategy crafted to manipulate anti-gay biases embedded throughout the system and society to justify their defendant's victimization of gays and lesbians."

race, sexual orientation and/or gender. Empathy and culpability are transposed as the jury is swayed to identify with the defendant. Assignation of guilt is transferred from the perpetrator to the victim, and empathy is retracted from the victim and bestowed upon the perpetrator.

Several followers of the case claimed that prosecutor Cole failed to provide a competent case. In an apparent attempt to negate Reed's self-identification as heterosexual, Cole told the jury, "(Reed) appeared to be a diligent son during the day, but in the wee hours of the morning he's talking about partying with two homosexuals." Ironically, Cole's re-presentation of Reed closely resembles Reynold's Jekyl and Hyde depiction of Dabarran in its implicit indictment of homosexuality. Cole continually mispronounced Dabarran's name, and with the exception of Dabarran's brother failed to enlist his colleagues as character witnesses. The medical examiners report contained information contradicting the defendant's claim that Dabarran drank heavily before falling asleep that night yet Cole inexplicably failed to introduce such evidence. Sandra Pope, a former police officer and close friend of Dabarran observed, "It was painfully obvious to those who watched the trial unfold in Cobb County that the lead prosecutor became paralyzed by his own homophobia, freezing not only his objectivity, but his ability to act. Apparently the violent murder of a young, gay, black man in Cobb County was not worth the deliverance of justice." In an interview following the verdict Reed's mother Carolyn Reed-Hicks said, "I don't think the jury had anything against gay people. If a person chooses to be gay, that's his choice. But you don't impose yourself. Some men just hate that."





clinical trials expert steven wakefield analyzes the Vaxgen findings

"Yes, Tuskegee happened, but we can't continue to use it as an excuse for not participating in research; times and protections have changed."

The Black community and the scientific community are rocked by the recent news about the results of the world's first Phase III efficacy HIV vaccine study. Other vaccines continue to be tested for safety but this was the first test to see if a vaccine protected folks from HIV or AIDS.

VaxGen, a private company, announced that the vaccine had no significant effect on preventing HIV infection in 5009 volunteers. However, when broken down by race, VaxGen announced that the vaccine was 78% effective in African American individuals (the vaccine was reported to be about 64% effective in people of Asian decent). If this result is scientifically valid, then this is indeed great news for black people, especially since we have had mostly dismal news since the HIV epidemic began. Many scientists and statisticians are skeptical about the results for blacks stating that there weren't enough black participants in the study for the results to be statistically significant. Also, some scientists are stating that they can not think of any biological reason why blacks should have fared better than whites in this study.

Over the coming months, researchers will be pouring over the VaxGen data to verify the reported results. They will also have to share the data with scientists at NIH (National Institutes of Health) and CDC (Centers for Disease Control) for further analysis and verification. Irregardless of the final analysis, there are still several important factors that should be considered by the African American community. The argument that the participation numbers for blacks was too low to provide accurate vaccine results shows how important it is for blacks to step up and participate in research. Yes, Tuskegee happened, but we can't continue to use it as an excuse for not participating in research; times and protections have changed. We also need to pressure our local researchers to make sure that appropriate outreach efforts are being made in our communities to recruit participants in research in a culturally appropriate manner. We have a right to make this request since funding for many of these research projects are paid by taxpayer dollars.

Perhaps the most controversial question is whether or not the FDA (Food and Drug Adminstration) should consider licensing this vaccine for use in Blacks based on the study data. Some scientists say that results based on 13 infections is too few. Some Blacks are calling for another trial testing the vaccine on enough Black people to get a definitive answer. Others are skeptical and see this as just a conspiracy to get Africa to buy the vaccine. The NIH's HIV Vaccine Trials Network is reviewing all previous and current products to see if there is any difference in immune response by Black trial volunteers.

There are many other HIV vaccines being tested in humans that we will be hearing more and more about in the near future. Additional data regarding the effectiveness of the VaxGen product in Asians will come later this year when the results of another study currently being conducted in Thailand are released.

Vaccines control many other viral diseases like polio, measles, and smallpox. A vaccine is the best hope for controlling this epidemic that has ravaged our community and most of Africa. Without a cure or vaccine, safer sex behaviors remain the best way to protect yourself from HIV right now.

I'm DOING WHAT MATTERS TO me again

HIV+ and no energy to do the things you used to do?
You may have anemia – a serious health concern.

Over half of all people who are being treated for HIV are taking medications that include AZT. These medications can reduce the number of red blood cells in your body and cause anemia, which can make you feel tired and weak. Don't just ignore it or try to live with it. PROCRIT increases the production of red blood cells. More red blood cells can mean more energy.

If you think anemia is stopping you from doing what matters to you, talk to your doctor.

Write down anything you might like to talk about beforehand, and ask your questions at the beginning of your appointment. Be specific about how tiredness is affecting you. Example: "I used to be able to work. Now, I can't, even part-time." This is more specific than "I'm tired all the time."

Ask about your red blood cell count, and if PROCRIT is right for you.

PROCRIT is an effective treatment for anemia induced by AZT-containing regimens in HIV patients. PROCRIT is proven and safe. In studies, side effects were similar in PROCRIT- and placebo-treated patients. PROCRIT is available by prescription only and is injected by your doctor or nurse. For complete details, see the Brief Prescribing Information on the following page.

PROCRIT®
EPOETIN ALFA
Strength for Living®

FOR ANEMIA INDUCED BY AZT-CONTAINING REGIMENS IN HIV PATIENTS

For more information, please call 1-888-PROCRIT or visit www.PROCRIT.com

Manufactured by Amgen Inc., Thousand Oaks, California 91320-1799 Distributed by: **Ortho Biotech Products, L.P.**, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807-0914

MS2-120

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION INDICATED FOR THE TREATMENT OF ANEMIA IN ZIDOVUDINE-TREATED HIV-INFECTED PATIENTS

PROCRIT®
EPOETIN ALFA
For Injection

FOR FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION FOR ALL INDICATIONS, REFER TO THE PHYSICIANS' DESK REFERENCE®

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

PROCRIT® (Epoetin alfa) is indicated for the treatment of anemia related to therapy with zidovudine in human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-infected patients. PROCRIT is indicated to elevate or maintain the red blood cell level [as manifested by the hematocrit (HCT) or hemoglobin determinations] and to decrease the need for transfusions in these patients. PROCRIT is not indicated for the treatment of anemia in HIV-infected patients due to other factors such as iron or folate deficiencies, hemolysis or gastrointestinal bleeding, which should be managed appropriately.

PROCRIT, at a dose of 100 U/kg 3 times per week (TIW), is effective in decreasing the transfusion requirement and increasing the red blood cell level of anemic, HIV-infected patients treated with zidovudine, when the endogenous serum erythropoietin level is ≤500 mU/mL and when patients are receiving a dose of zidovudine ≤4200 mg/week.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

PROCRIT is contraindicated in patients with: 1) Uncontrolled hypertension; 2) Known hypersensitivity to mammalian cell-derived products; 3) Known hypersensitivity to Albumin (Human).

WARNINGS

Pediatric Use: The multidose preserved formulation contains benzyl alcohol. Benzyl alcohol has been reported to be associated with an increased incidence of neurological and other complications in premature infants, which are sometimes fatal. PROCRIT therapy has not been linked to exacerbation of hypertension, seizures, and thrombotic events in HIV-infected patients.

Pure Red Cell Aplasia

Pure red cell aplasia (PRCA), in association with neutralizing antibodies to native erythropoietin, has been observed in patients treated with recombinant erythropoietins. PRCA has been reported in a limited number of patients exposed to PROCRIT. This has been reported predominantly in patients with CRF. Any patient with loss of response to PROCRIT should be evaluated for the etiology of loss of effect (see PRECAUTIONS: Lack or Loss of Response). PROCRIT should be discontinued in any patient with evidence of PRCA and the patient evaluated for the presence of binding and neutralizing antibodies to PROCRIT, native erythropoietin, and any other recombinant erythropoietin administered to the patient. Amgen/Ortho Biotech Products, L.P. should be contacted to assist in this evaluation. In patients with PRCA secondary to neutralizing antibodies to erythropoietin, PROCRIT should not be administered and such patients should not be switched to another product as anti-erythropoietin antibodies cross-react with other erythropoietins (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

PRECAUTIONS

The parenteral administration of any biologic product should be attended by appropriate precautions in case allergic or other untoward reactions occur (see CONTRAINDICATIONS). In clinical trials, while transient rashes were occasionally observed concurrently with PROCRIT therapy, no serious allergic or anaphylactic reactions were reported. (See ADVERSE REACTIONS for more information regarding allergic reactions.)

The safety and efficacy of PROCRIT therapy have not been established in patients with a known history of a seizure disorder or underlying hematologic disease (eg, sickle cell anemia, myelodysplastic syndromes, or hypercoagulable disorders).

In some female patients, menses have resumed following PROCRIT therapy; the possibility of pregnancy should be discussed and the need for contraception evaluated.

Hematology: Exacerbation of porphyria has been observed rarely in patients with chronic renal failure (CRF) treated with PROCRIT. However, PROCRIT has not caused increased urinary excretion of porphyrin metabolites in normal volunteers, even in the presence of a rapid erythropoietic response. Nevertheless, PROCRIT should be used with caution in patients with known porphyria.

In preclinical studies in dogs and rats, but not in monkeys, PROCRIT therapy was associated with subclinical bone marrow fibrosis. Therefore, zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients should have HCT measured once a week (QW) until HCT has been stabilized, and measured periodically thereafter.

Lack or Loss of Response: If the patient fails to respond or to maintain a response to doses within the recommended dosing range, the following etiologies should be considered and evaluated: 1) Iron deficiency: Virtually all patients will eventually require supplemental iron therapy (see Iron Evaluation). 2) Underlying infectious, inflammatory, or malignant processes. 3) Occult blood loss. 4) Underlying hematologic diseases (ie, thalassemia, refractory anemia, or other myelodysplastic disorders). 5) Vitamin deficiencies: folic acid or vitamin B12. 6) Hemolysis. 7) Aluminum intoxication. 8) Osteitis fibrosa cystica.

In the absence of another etiology, the patient should be evaluated for evidence of PRCA and sera should be tested for the presence of antibodies to recombinant erythropoietins.

Iron Evaluation: During PROCRIT therapy, absolute or functional iron deficiency may develop. Functional iron deficiency, with normal ferritin levels but low transferrin saturation, is presumably due to the inability to mobilize iron stores rapidly enough to support increased erythropoiesis. Transferrin saturation should be at least 20% and ferritin should be at least 100 ng/mL.

Prior to and during PROCRIT therapy, the patient's iron status, including transferrin saturation (serum iron divided by iron binding capacity) and serum ferritin, should be evaluated. Virtually all patients will eventually require supplemental iron to increase or maintain transferrin saturation to levels which will adequately support erythropoiesis stimulated by PROCRIT.

Drug Interactions: No evidence of interaction of PROCRIT with other drugs was observed in the course of clinical trials.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenic potential of PROCRIT has not been evaluated. PROCRIT does not induce bacterial gene mutation (Ames Test), chromosomal aberrations in mammalian cells, micronuclei in mice, or gene mutation at the HGPRT locus. In female rats treated intravenously (IV) with PROCRIT, there was a trend for slightly increased fetal wastage at doses of 100 and 500 U/kg.

Pregnancy Category C: PROCRIT has been shown to have adverse effects in rats when given in doses 5 times the human dose. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. PROCRIT should be used during pregnancy only if potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

In studies in female rats, there were decreases in body weight gain, delays in appearance of abdominal hair, delayed eyelid opening, delayed ossification, and decreases in the number of caudal vertebrae in the F1 fetuses of the 500 U/kg group. In female rats treated IV, there was a trend for slightly increased fetal wastage at doses of 100 and 500 U/kg.

Nursing Mothers: Postnatal observations of the live offspring (F1 generation) of female rats treated with PROCRIT during gestation and lactation revealed decreases in body weight gain, delays in appearance of abdominal hair, eyelid opening, and decreases in the number of caudal vertebrae in the F1 fetuses of the 500 U/kg group. It is not known whether PROCRIT is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when PROCRIT is administered to a nursing woman.

Pediatric Use: See WARNINGS, Pediatric Use.

Pediatric HIV-Infected Patients: Published literature has reported the use of PROCRIT in 20 zidovudine-treated anemic HIV-infected pediatric patients ages 8 months to 17 years, treated with 50 to 400 U/kg subcutaneously (SC) or IV, 2 to 3 times per week (BIW to TIW). Increases in hemoglobin levels and in reticulocyte counts, and decreases in or elimination of blood transfusions were observed.

Hypertension: Exacerbation of hypertension has not been observed in zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients treated with PROCRIT. However, PROCRIT should be withheld in these patients if preexisting hypertension is uncontrolled, and should not be started until blood pressure (BP) is controlled. In double-blind studies, a single seizure has been experienced by a patient treated with PROCRIT.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Immunogenicity

As with all therapeutic proteins, there is the potential for immunogenicity. Cases of antibody-induced PRCA in patients treated with recombinant human erythropoietins have been described in publications.

Very rare occurrences of PRCA and the presence of antibodies with neutralizing activity have been reported since market introduction of PROCRIT in the United States (see WARNINGS: Pure Red Cell Aplasia). Cases have been observed in patients treated by both SC and IV routes of administration. Among reported cases where the route of administration is known, PRCA has been observed more with SC administration than IV administration.

The incidence of antibody formation is highly dependent on the sensitivity and specificity of the assay. Additionally, the observed incidence of antibody positivity in an assay may be influenced by several factors including sample handling, timing of sample collection, concomitant medications, and underlying disease. For these reasons, comparison of the incidence of antibodies to PROCRIT with the incidence of antibodies to other products may be misleading.

Adverse events reported in clinical trials with PROCRIT in zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients were consistent with the progression of HIV infection. In double-blind, placebo-controlled studies of 3-months duration involving approximately 300 zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients, adverse events with an incidence of ≥10% in either patients treated with PROCRIT or placebo-treated patients were:

Percent of Patients Reporting Event: Event followed by Patients Treated With PROCRIT (N=144) first, Placebo-Treated Patients (N=153) second:
Pyrexia 38%, 29%; Fatigue 25%, 31%; Headache 19%, 14%; Cough 18%, 14%; Diarrhea 16%, 18%; Rash 16%, 8%; Congestion, Respiratory 15%, 10%; Nausea 15%, 12%; Shortness of Breath 14%, 13%; Asthenia 11%, 14%; Skin Reaction (Administration Site) 10%, 7%; Dizziness 9%, 10%.

There were no statistically significant differences between treatment groups in the incidence of the above events.

In the 297 patients studied, PROCRIT was not associated with significant increases in opportunistic infections or mortality. In 71 patients from this group treated with PROCRIT at 150 U/kg TIW, serum p24 antigen levels did not appear to increase. Preliminary data showed no enhancement of HIV replication in infected cell lines in vitro.

Peripheral white blood cell and platelet counts are unchanged following PROCRIT therapy.

Allergic Reactions: Two zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients had urticarial reactions within 48 hours of their first exposure to study medication. One patient was treated with PROCRIT and one was treated with placebo (PROCRIT vehicle alone). Both patients had positive immediate skin tests against their study medication with a negative saline control. The basis for this apparent preexisting hypersensitivity to components of the PROCRIT formulation is unknown, but may be related to HIV-induced immunosuppression or prior exposure to blood products.

Seizures: In double-blind and open-label trials of PROCRIT in zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients, 10 patients have experienced seizures. In general, these seizures appear to be related to underlying pathology such as meningitis or cerebral neoplasms, not PROCRIT therapy.

OVERDOSAGE

The maximum amount of PROCRIT that can be safely administered in single or multiple doses has not been determined. Doses of up to 1500 U/kg TIW for 3 to 4 weeks have been administered to adults without any direct toxic effects of PROCRIT itself. Therapy with PROCRIT can result in polycythemia if the HCT is not carefully monitored and the dose appropriately adjusted. If the suggested target range is exceeded, PROCRIT may be temporarily withheld until the HCT returns to the suggested target range; PROCRIT therapy may then be resumed using a lower dose (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). If polycythemia is of concern, phlebotomy may be indicated to decrease the HCT.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Prior to beginning PROCRIT, it is recommended that the endogenous serum erythropoietin level be determined (prior to transfusion). Available evidence suggests that patients receiving zidovudine with endogenous serum erythropoietin levels >500 mU/mL are unlikely to respond to therapy with PROCRIT.

Starting Dose: For adult patients with serum erythropoietin levels ≤500 mU/mL who are receiving a dose of zidovudine ≤4200 mg/week, the recommended starting dose of PROCRIT is 100 U/kg as an IV or SC injection TIW for 8 weeks. For pediatric patients, see PRECAUTIONS, Pediatric Use.

Increase Dose: During the dose adjustment phase of therapy, the HCT should be monitored weekly. If the response is not satisfactory in terms of reducing transfusion requirements or increasing HCT after 8 weeks of therapy, the dose of PROCRIT can be increased by 50-100 U/kg TIW. Response should be evaluated every 4-8 weeks thereafter and the dose adjusted accordingly by 50-100 U/kg increments TIW. If patients have not responded satisfactorily to a PROCRIT dose of 300 U/kg TIW, it is unlikely that they will respond to higher doses of PROCRIT.

Maintenance Dose: After attainment of the desired response (ie, reduced transfusion requirements or increased HCT), the dose of PROCRIT should be titrated to maintain the response based on factors such as variations in zidovudine dose and the presence of intercurrent infectious or inflammatory episodes. If the HCT exceeds 40%, the dose should be discontinued until the HCT drops to 36%. The dose should be reduced by 25% when treatment is resumed and then titrated to maintain the desired HCT.

STORAGE

Store at 2° to 8°C (36° to 46°F). Do not freeze or shake.

Manufactured by: Amgen Inc., U.S. Lic. # 1080, Thousand Oaks, California 91320-1799

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Overconfident

Artist: Miguel Angel Reyes

Most new HIV infections are among people younger than 21 years old who had unprotected sex.

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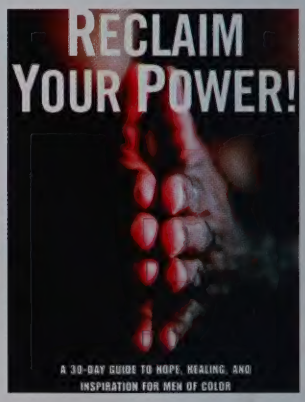
RECLAIM YOUR POWER:

A 30-Day Guide to Hope, Healing, and Inspiration for Men of Color, Villard Books
by Tarrence Dean Foreward by Tavis Smiley



Growing up in Detroit, Terrance Dean faced many hardships including losing his mother (a heroin addict) and two younger brothers to the AIDS virus. Through it all, however, he never lost faith in God or in himself and used spirituality as a tool for overcoming what for others would have been insurmountable. Now a successful writer, speaker, and community philanthropist, Terrance has written *RECLAIM YOUR POWER! A 30-day Guide to Hope, Healing, and Inspiration For Men of Color* to help other black men like himself embrace and incorporate spirituality in their every day lives.

The literary Soul Writer and entrepreneur is the founder/creator of Men's Empowerment, Inc., The Education Source and The Chat 'n Chew Power Brunch. He is also co-creator of The Gathering of Men with Adeyemi Bandele, the husband and spiritual partner of acclaimed teacher and best-selling author Iyanla Vanzant. Dean made his literary debut with his self-published book, *Be Empowered: 30 Days of Meditation for Men of Color.* This book landed Dean his current book deal with the imprint Random House/Villard.

Designed in a day-by-day format, *RECLAIM YOUR POWER* offers wisdom in accessible bites by providing exercises and meditations that can be practiced anywhere, at any time. Themes such as "Trust Yourself", "Can't No One Stop You But You", and "Be An Inspiration" are assigned to each day and short narratives are provided to explain their significance. Exercises and quotes from famous men of color like Thurgood Marshall, Colin Powell, and Bill Cosby further enhance the learning experience and make it interactive.

Milk Chocolate/Naked Moon

by Joe Okonkwo On Demand Printing
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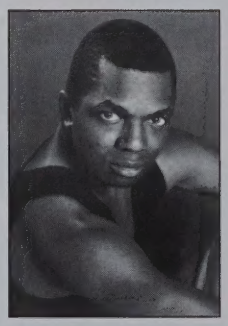

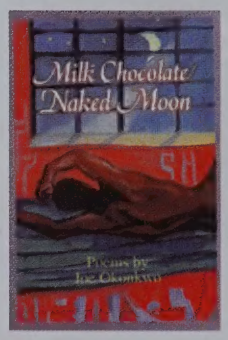

Joe Okonkwo has produced a volume of poetry that is actually a mosaic of African-American and Gay issues. This riveting collection covers everything from Jazz and sex, to politics and dating; from racism within Gay community, to black on black racism. There are poems about the journey from depression to wholeness and poems about exuberant gay men flouncing about the streets wearing only silk boxer shorts and argyle socks. Joe Okonko fearlessly tackles taboo subjects such as what some African-Americans really think about the ghetto; who really bears the blame for slavery and how expectations set fourth by the Gay media affect those who don't or can't comply. *Milk Chocolate/Naked Moon* is exactly what we've been waiting for; an unpredictable page turning collection of poetry.

Sowa's Red Gravy Stories

by Diane Richards
1St Books Library
www.HarlemRenaissance Publishing.com

Spirits, good and bad, are everywhere in Harlem. As 110-year-year-old Witch, Sowa says, "If you don't know where yah going, it might be betta to stay at home." But *Sowa's Red Gravy Stories* is not about spooky stories of Harlem but rather about life's ups and downs and interesting folks in the neighborhood.

Author, Diane Richards is a proud member of the Harlem Writers Guild, the oldest African American writers guild in the world, and the legendary guild of Maya Angelou, Terry McMillian and Ossie Davis. Loving all genres of writing, Ms. Richards is the founder of HarlemRenaissancePublishing.com and HarlemRenaissanceWritersGuild.com. Both Internet companies focus on the development and promotion of young emerging African Americans writers.

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Michael A. Adams with Chicago designer Jesse Rodriguez

we've got your hook up!

our jet-setting travelor editor, Michael A. Adams, has done the Hot and Hip homework for you. Get out of the hotel this Pride Season and check these new spots to see and be seen.

Just for you, a list of the "hot and new" in major cities across the nation where LGBT festivals are scheduled this summer: The kind of places and things that tourists won't always come across on their own.

New York

With so much to be thankful for try praise and worship on Sunday morning at Donnie McClurkin's Perfecting Faith Church on Long Island, (516/223-8300). Dance up a storm, get the word, then head on over to Akwaakba Café for Sunday brunch.

Between the hours of 11:00 A.M and 6:00 P.M., in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of the city, Akwaaba serves a lavish buffet influenced by the African Diaspora. Turkey bacon, sweet potato pancakes, fried chicken, fish and sweet potatoes, salmon cakes and more. Owner/operator, Monroe Shannon describes the ambience as "upscale, but not uptight, with a very international, yet neighborly feel." (718/774-1444)

Black to Broadway is publisher, Charlene Cothran's pick for a stellar experience in theatre. "All the top Black Broadway performers and industry insiders flock to this event." Two things to remember: MONTHLY ON MONDAY! (www.b2productions.org) Don't forget Russell Simmons' Def Poetry play on Broadway. (www.playbill.com.)

Philadelphia

Trendy South Street is home to Galerie T' Elgee, the must see for fine art aficionados. Extraordinary works from Haitian and other artists of color are yours to see and take home. (www.galerietelgee.com)

For gallery owner Terrence L. Gore, the very opulent Ritz Carlton Hotel on Independence Mall, where a decadent chocolate buffet is served every Friday and Saturday evening, is Philly's must do. "It's a great place to swirl a costume, see and be seen."

History buffs and wannabes, which should include all of us, need to know Sandra Steward of Great American Tours. Her culturally enlightening tours will blow your mind! (www.gatours.com)

Chicago

For an experience in eccentricity, Jesse Rodriguez recommends a visit to Pasha where on Tuesdays and Saturdays you can Salsa, flamenco or belly dance to world music at its best, courtesy of the award winning Bandoleros. French-Italian cuisine is served until 3:00 A.M. weekdays and 4:00 on the weekend. Get this, the ladies room has a full service bar inside! Wonder what goes on in there...? Dress to impress for this multicultural, multi-sexual-crowd. (www.pasharest.com)

Atlanta

In Peachtree paradise, Trish Carter, author of "Linger: Lust is Surface," a scratch and sniff interactive, loves the Buckhead Backlot AMC Theaters at 3340 Peachtree Rd. NE. "You can order and receive beer, wine and food right from your seat."

Washington, D.C.

For the ultimate in tranquility, Vincent Reed suggests the United States National Arboretum. Situated on 446 acres with 9.5 miles of winding roadway, it's a picture perfect place for a picnic.

Exotic aquatic plants, Asian flowers, an azalea collection, holly and magnolia collections, an herb garden, a bonsai museum and on and on.... No wonder it was named one of the Top 10 Botanical Gardens in America! www.usna.usda.gov/

Miami

Flaunt your best assets over cocktails in the Showroom lounge at the just opened Hotel Clinton South Beach. Dine on display at Pao, where the cuisine is soul satisfying Chinese. Take it off for a dip in the wave pool. Then freshen up in the privacy of your room

Ultralight Adventure Ride in South Beach, Miami

where the layout is far less confining than most. With speakers throughout, watch cable TV, a DVD or listen to a CD from as far away as the bathroom. Grace the lobby with your presence once more to take advantage of the complimentary use of bikes, beach chairs and water coolers. Packaged deals for a two-nights stay including breakfast daily, a bottle of wine, and a three-hour bay cruise, begin at $155. (www.clintonsouthbeach.com)

Elevate your SoBe experience with an Ultralight Adventure Ride. An unobstructed view from the big blue provides an extraordinary observation of marine life in the aqua sea below. Tony, your personal pilot, can fly by exclusive Fisher Island, pass downtown Miami's skyscrapers and over the big, bad and beautiful cruise ships resting in port. www.ultralightadventures.com

By the way, the 12th Street beach is where the kids flock for fun and frolic.

Houston, TX

A best-kept secret according to Sean Dawson, vice president of Houston Splash, is the Breakfast Klub. Crispy chicken served with tender waffles, mouthwatering catfish and creamy grits with eggs and biscuits on the side are served at the 3711 Travis Street address. For the froux froux in you, espresso and gourmet coffee keep it real.

As a pre-dinner, post theater or just because option consider cocktails at Dive Lounge for an out of water experience at the new Downtown Aquarium. (www.downtownaquarium.com)

Los Angeles/ Southern California

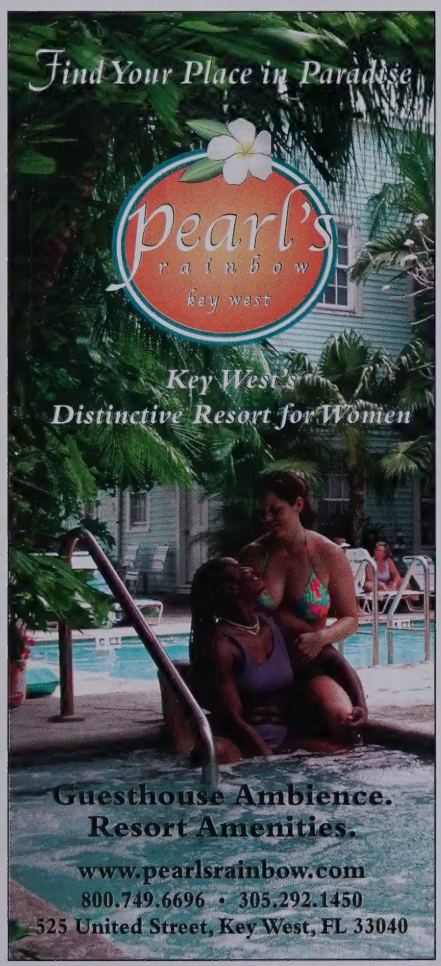
On the cusp of Beverly Hills and West Hollywood you can't miss the Beverly Center, a half day doable shopping venue with Bloomies, Macy's, Armani, Hugo as in BOSS, D&G, Louis V. (for Vuitton), M.A.C. for your face and Neuhaus chocolates to taste. The food court rests above it all with an outdoor deck where on a clear day you can almost touch the downtown skyline.

Two blocks north and three to the west is Elixir. This celebrity frequented, Melrose Avenue hot spot has some of the best teas in town. Out back there's a lovely garden with lots of cozy seating in a very serene scene bearing a fountain in the middle. If you're lucky you might catch or be caught! For best results go with tea on your mind.

The Bay Area/Northern California Hot off the press, according to publicist Orlando De Bruce, the first Thursday and the fourth Saturday of every month is about Club Mirage at the Sound Factory. Located at 525 Harrison Street, it's San Francisco's only club catering to the black LGBT constituency since the departure of Club Rimshot/Bench and Bar. This multi level venue for men and women with several dance floors and bars is far from a dive.

Talk About Travel

Here's your chance to speak directly with our travel editor, Michaek A. Adms. Send mail to travel@venusmagazine.com. Share news, request reviews, get information and answers to your specific questions concerning travel and tourism.



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What I Wish My Mama Had Known

continued from page 35

school. Are they acting out in classes? Do they always seem to have an attitude with you? Some of it is age appropriate, but some of it may have to do with them trying to deal with you being gay. This especially rings true if you yourself have not come to terms with your own sexuality. If you seem apologetic or ashamed about being gay or they never hear you challenge others saying negative things about gays, then they are left without a guide and may exhibit similar behavior. Don't be afraid to seek family counseling support if necessary. There are therapists out there who understand Black LGBT issues.

4) Give your children the communication skills and personal tools needed to deal with tough situations. I got into fights all of the time about my mama being gay and know of folks who have been jumped in school because other kids found out they have a gay parent. You must teach your children how to respond effectively and safely when confronted with gay bias and discrimination – even if it is by a family member. Give your children the right language to use and encourage them to stand proud. Continue to empower them with your love and support. Affirm our community by teaching them about all of the powerful, intelligent and influential leaders, writers, athletes, educators, movie stars, and politicians that are Black and gay. Teach them to take pride in our families. Teach them to love their complex selves.

Alma de Cuba

continued from page 21

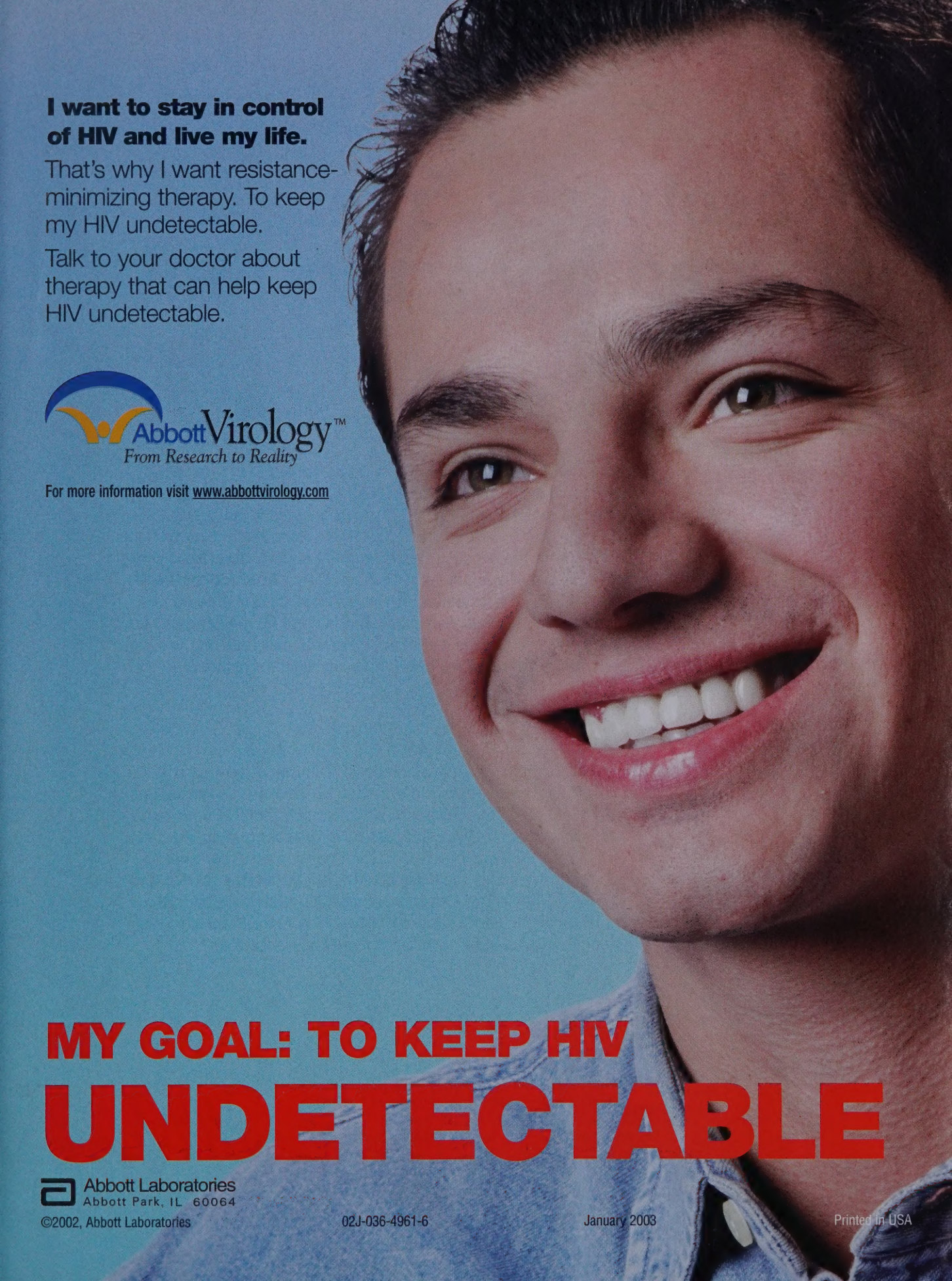
touch either of these.

Molton Fundido de Congrejo, a fondue of jumbo lump crab meat, malanga, manchego and chihuahua cheeses served with malanga and plantain chips, is one of those fun appetizers that will never disappoint. I'm also a fan of empanadas. Their truffled wild mushroom empanada made me want to holler and throw up both my hands! It's truffled empanada dough filled with shiitake, porcini and crimini mushrooms served over sweet onion escavilada in a sweet corn sauce. Shaking my head and licking my lips, all I can say when I was through was umh!

Seared scallops, if and when prepared to perfection, tend to do it for me. At Alma de Cuba pan seared diver scallops are wrapped in Serrano ham served with piquillo peppers, roasted tomato quinoa & marinated white asparagus with a black olive vinaigrette for a painstakingly enchanting entrée. If I had been home I would have removed my shoes to wiggle my toes in appreciation of such fine cuisine.

Delectable sides range from black beans and white rice, fried sweet plantains, sautéed spinach with garlic, arroz imperial, yuca rellenas with lamb picadillo and yuca fries with mojo. And I thought that Miami's Versailles (a Cuban classic) had it going on!

For desert, you've got to try the chocolate cigar. It's actually almond cake wrapped in chocolate mousse, dusted with chocolate and served with dulce de leche ice cream. And to think that I thought I could taste it without eating it all...! Also, if you've never had Cuban coffee, do your self a favor and try it. It's really strong, which will help you get moving in case you ate too much of a good thing.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www.BlackAIDS.org

www.**Black**AIDS.org is a comprehensive online resource with prevention and treatment information on **African Americans** and HIV/AIDS. You'll find all issues of Kujisource there in both text and PDF format. The site includes links to testing sites, elected officials and sources of HIV/AIDS information of importance to people of **African** descent both in the United States, **Africa** and elsewhere. The entire site is searchable through an advanced facility that includes sound-alike matching. www.**Black**AIDS.org is updated regularly—sometimes more than once a day.

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remembering sistah simone

words by Michael K. Watts
image by Carol Friedman

The world mourns the loss of legendary jazz pianist Nina Simone

Nina Simone, The High Priestess of Soul known for transcending racial and musical barriers, raising social consciousness, and invoking tears and cheers with the raspy sound of her voice, died on April 21 at her home in Carry-le-Rouet in Southern France. She was 70.

Simone's manager Clifton Henderson was at her bedside and says she died in her sleep of "natural causes" after a long illness. Despite failing health in recent years, Simone continued traveling around the globe, performing her extraordinary repertoire of jazz, folk, gospel, blues and soul music that made her an enigmatic songstress for many decades. On stage she was the consummate pianist and vocalist, with a sometimes soothing, sometimes searing voice that was unforgettable. Off stage, she was a tormented genius ahead of her time, often temperamental and abrasive, unable to cope with the unavoidable racism of her native land.

Born Eunice Kathleen Waymon in 1933 in Tryon, North Carolina, she began playing the piano at age 4. She received a scholarship to the Juilliard School of Music--a rare opportunity for Blacks in the 1950s. But she ran out of money to support herself after a year at Juilliard, so she left school and moved back in with her family who lived in Philadelphia at the time. To make money she began singing jazz and playing piano at nightclubs in Philadelphia and Atlantic City. She assumed her stage name to keep her staunch Methodist mother from finding out how she was making her money. Her Hispanic boyfriend nicknamed her Nina ("little girl"), and the name Simone was inspired by French actress Simone Signoret.

Her classical training combined with her raw, often piercing voice made her a hit on the club circuit, despite her then unconventional afrocentric hairstyle and attire. Eventually, the mainstream music industry took note, and in 1957 she recorded her first album, which produced her first hit, a rendition of Gershwin's "I Loves You, Porgy." Other hits like "My Baby Just Cares for Me" and "I Put a Spell on You" would follow. In the 1960s she became a musical icon in the civil rights movement, using her music as her platform for activism. Infuriated by the murder of civil rights advocate Medgar Evers and the Birmingham church bombing that killed four young girls, Simone recorded powerful songs like "To Be Young, Gifted and Black," "Four Women," "Why (The King of Love is Dead)" and "Mississippi Goddam." The bitterness that shines through in the latter song would eventually lead her to leave the United States in the 1970s, fed up with entrenched racism and broke from a fledgling career once her music of empowerment was no longer en vogue.

Simone lived in Britain, The Netherlands, Barbados, Trinidad and Liberia before eventually settling in France in 1984. She still recorded a couple of albums in the Unites States, and in 1991 she penned her autobiography, *I Put a Spell On You*. Her 1993 album "A Single Woman" received critical acclaim, rejuvenating her career. Yet, just as she was riding a wave of renewed popularity in the 1990s, her health began to decline, prompting her to perform less and less. Her timeless music and indomitable spirit will be remembered for years to come.

Simone is survived by three brothers, a sister and one daughter, Lisa Celeste, a singer and actress known professionally as Simone, who currently stars on Broadway in AIDA. The younger Simone has established the Nina Simone Foundation in her mother's honor. For more information contact the Foundation at 156 West 56th Street, 4th Floor, New York, New York 10019.

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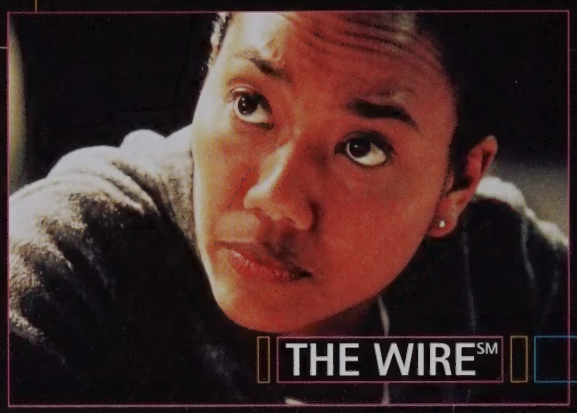

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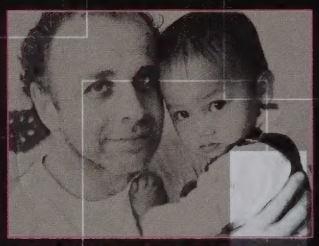

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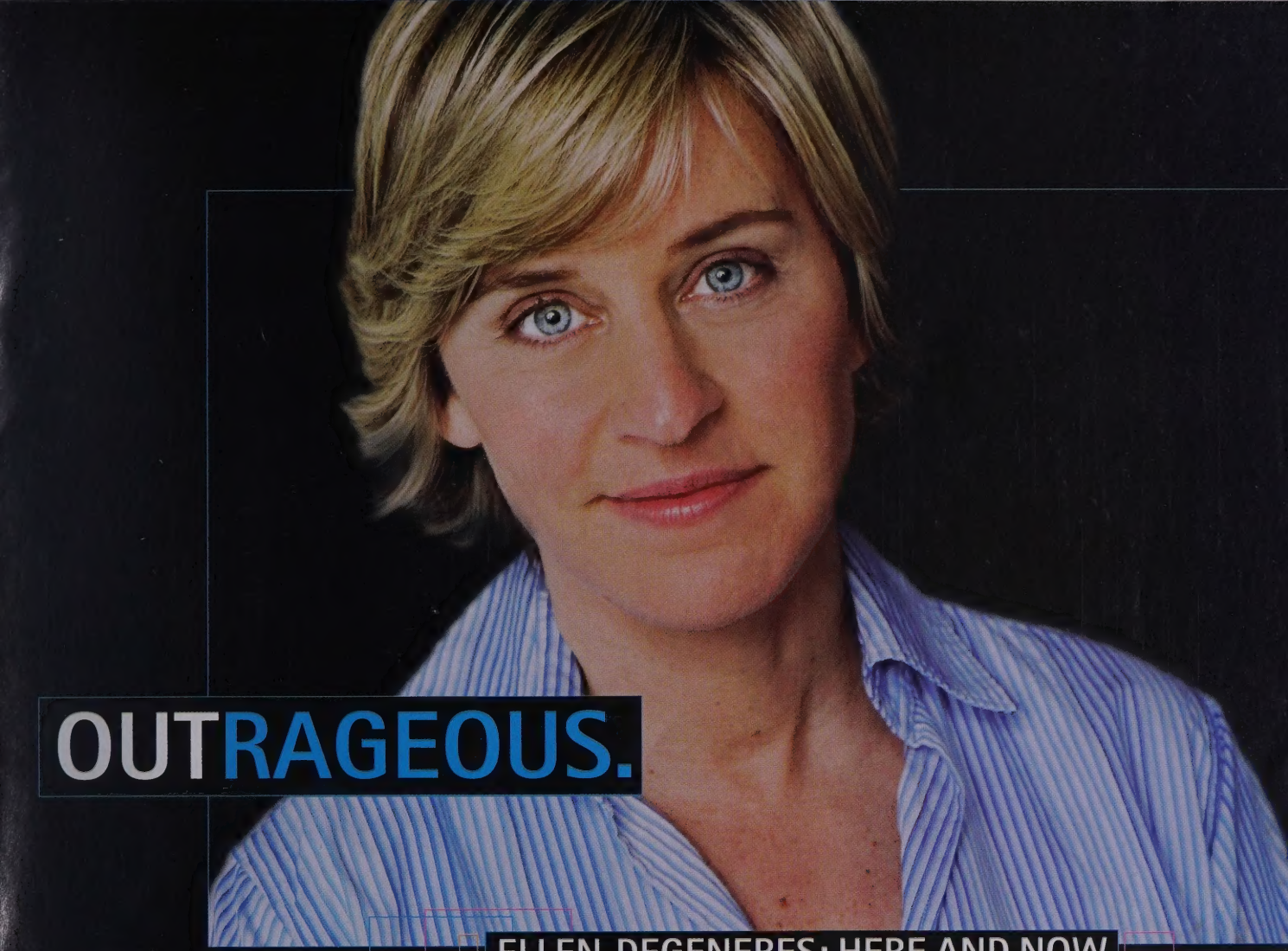

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- Make sure to see your doctor regularly because serious side effects can occur, such as muscle damage and a decrease in red and white blood cells
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Generic name: lamivudine/zidovudine tablets

Please read this information before you start taking COMBIVIR. Staying informed will help you to work more closely with your doctor and healthcare team to determine what is best for you. Remember, this information does not take the place of careful discussion with your doctor. You should remain under a doctor's care when using COMBIVIR and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is COMBIVIR?

COMBIVIR is the brand name of a tablet that combines EPIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine tablets) [3TC®] and RETROVIR® (zidovudine) Tablets [ZDV], two drugs which are used to treat HIV (human immunodeficiency virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

How does COMBIVIR work?

COMBIVIR is a combination of lamivudine (la-MIV-u-deen) and zidovudine (Zi-DOHV-u-deen), two medicines (nucleoside analogues) that slow down the replication of the HIV virus. This can reduce the virus' ability to infect new cells. It may help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. Lamivudine plus zidovudine when used together can have stronger (synergistic) effects against the virus. COMBIVIR is a convenient way of taking lamivudine and zidovudine. COMBIVIR should usually be taken with other anti-HIV therapy.

Will COMBIVIR work the same as EPIVIR and RETROVIR taken together?

Taking one COMBIVIR Tablet twice a day is the same as taking one EPIVIR 150 mg Tablet twice a day and either two RETROVIR 100 mg Capsules three times a day or one RETROVIR 300 mg Tablet twice a day.

How should I take COMBIVIR?

Take COMBIVIR as your doctor prescribes it. The recommended dose is one COMBIVIR Tablet orally two times a day, with or without food. To help make sure you will benefit from COMBIVIR, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays."

What should I do if I miss a dose of COMBIVIR?

If you miss a dose by more than 4 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time. However, if you miss a dose by less than 4 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of COMBIVIR at any one time.

Does COMBIVIR cure HIV infection or AIDS?

No, there is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking COMBIVIR may still develop infections or other illnesses associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important to remain under the care of a healthcare provider. Use of lamivudine plus zidovudine has been shown to help patients with HIV infection stay healthy and live longer.

Does COMBIVIR reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

No, COMBIVIR, as well as other HIV medications, has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take COMBIVIR?

You should not take COMBIVIR if you have had a serious allergic reaction to either lamivudine (also known as EPIVIR or 3TC) or zidovudine (also known as RETROVIR or ZDV).

Do not take COMBIVIR at the same time as EPIVIR or RETROVIR, or TRIZIVIR® (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine/zidovudine), because they also contain lamivudine and zidovudine.

Individual dosing with EPIVIR plus RETROVIR, rather than COMBIVIR, should be considered for:

- A child under 12 years of age.
- Anyone who requires dosage adjustments due to drug side effects or poor kidney function.

If you are 65 years of age or over, consult your healthcare professional about the functioning of your liver, kidneys, and heart; about other illnesses you may suffer from, and about any other medications you may be taking. It is possible that the dosage may need to be modified.

What medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my healthcare provider?

Talk to your healthcare provider if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while taking COMBIVIR. Ask your doctor about enrolling you in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry: 1-800-258-4263.
- You are breast-feeding. Mothers infected with HIV should not breast-feed their infants because HIV is present in breast milk.

Also talk to your doctor about:

- Problems with your blood counts.
- Problems with your muscles.
- Problems with your kidneys.
- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease, such as hepatitis.

Can COMBIVIR be taken with other medications?

Yes. COMBIVIR can be taken with most other medications, including most anti-HIV drugs. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medications, over-the-counter or prescription, that you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of COMBIVIR?

Do not rely on this summary alone for information about side effects. Your healthcare provider can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects that may be relevant to you.

The safety of COMBIVIR is not expected to be different from the safety of EPIVIR and RETROVIR given separately.

In clinical studies of lamivudine plus zidovudine, side effects occurring in 5% or more of patients included: muscle and joint pain, headache, nausea, weakness and fatigue, nasal symptoms, cough, diarrhea, nausea and vomiting, neuropathy, trouble sleeping, fever or chills, loss of appetite, dizziness, abdominal pain or cramps, depression, skin rashes, and indigestion.

It's important to know that serious side effects can occur with COMBIVIR, such as a decrease in red and white blood cells and muscle damage. A buildup of lactic acid and an enlarged liver, including fatal cases, have been reported rarely with some HIV drugs, including nucleoside analogues.

For HIV-infected individuals, periodic blood tests are recommended. If certain changes occur in your laboratory results while you are taking COMBIVIR, particularly if you become anemic or if your white blood cell count falls too low, your medication may need to be adjusted; your doctor may prescribe EPIVIR plus RETROVIR separately in place of COMBIVIR.

Tell your doctor promptly about any side effects or other unusual symptoms you may experience. Although it may make you healthier, COMBIVIR does not cure HIV.

Safety Information

Make sure to see your doctor regularly, because serious side effects can occur, such as muscle damage and a decrease in red and white blood cells. A buildup of acid in the blood, and an enlarged liver, including fatal cases, have been seen. The most frequent side effects are headache, upset stomach, malaise or fatigue, and runny nose.

Other Information

This medication is prescribed for a particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep COMBIVIR and all medicines out of the reach of children.

Like most prescription drugs, lamivudine and zidovudine were required to be tested on animals before they were allowed for human use. In animal studies with doses much higher than those used in humans, zidovudine was associated with vaginal tumors. Your healthcare provider can tell you more about how drugs are tested on animals and what the results of these tests may mean about safety for you.

How should I store COMBIVIR Tablets?

COMBIVIR Tablets may be stored at room temperature and do not require refrigeration.

gsk GlaxoSmithKline

GlaxoSmithKline
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

This provides a summary of information about COMBIVIR. If you have any questions or concerns about COMBIVIR or HIV, talk to your healthcare provider.

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9 THINGS TO DO TO BE A HEALTHY AFRICAN-AMERICAN

BE A CRITICAL THINKER and aware that in media (film, television, newspapers, magazines, etc.), public and private educational systems (schools) and some advertisements there are messages that may lead Black people to believe we are not as beautiful or as valuable as others.

Black parents talk with-not at-your children. Encourage their critical thinking capacity. Black children talk with-not at-your parents. Encourage their critical thinking capacity.

Exercise daily, drink plenty of water, and eat nutritious foods (fresh vegetables, low fat meats, minimal dairy products and sugar) during the week. Splurge, if you must, on weekends.

Be courageous, improve your life and seek wellness assistance. If you have food, sex, drama (fussing, fighting, violence) or substance use addictions, don't play yourself. Seek change.

If you are heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual and sexually active use protection (a fresh condom and water based lubricant). We live in the age of HIV, and for "us" it's growing. Yet it's 100% preventable.

If you already know you've been sexually active and unprotected – get a confidential HIV test and counseling.

Every time you pass a Brother or Sister in the street, even if they are homeless, speak. It won't cost you a thing.

Unlearn anti-Black thinking. Start with erasing the "N" word from your vocabulary. We are the descendants of enslaved Africans systematically turned against each other. We must actively counter this by affirming one another, even when doing so is a challenge.

If you are self-destructing -- overeating, oversexing, possibly depressed (listen up Brothers), or having a difficult time sustaining relationships, being a decent person or a good role model to children -- seek help. Doing so is a sign of strength, not weakness.

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It is no surprise that America's fashion trends are controlled by the extraordinary talents of Black men. But what may surprise you is that Vogue columnist Andre Leon Talley, the King of creating fashion trends, is such an unassuming gentle giant in a world of ego maniacs. He is constantly shining the spotlight on his colleagues and up and coming designers. With a television show and new book on the shelves, our editors now shine the light on him.

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Women who take playing recorded music seriously are themselves taken seriously in the DJ booths of major clubs, recording studios and radio stations. Disc Jockey positions that were traditionally reserved for men are now occuppied by talented women... We've captured a few of these Divas in action. Hold on to your hips. These Ladies will ROCK you!

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The Rev. Cecile Williams is the pastor of San Francisco's Glide Memorial United Methodist Church. He is a hetero Black preacher with congregants that are of every nationality, economic status and sexual orientation. And he wouldn't have it any other way.

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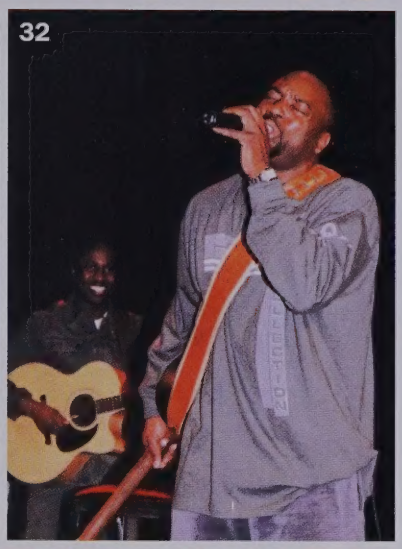

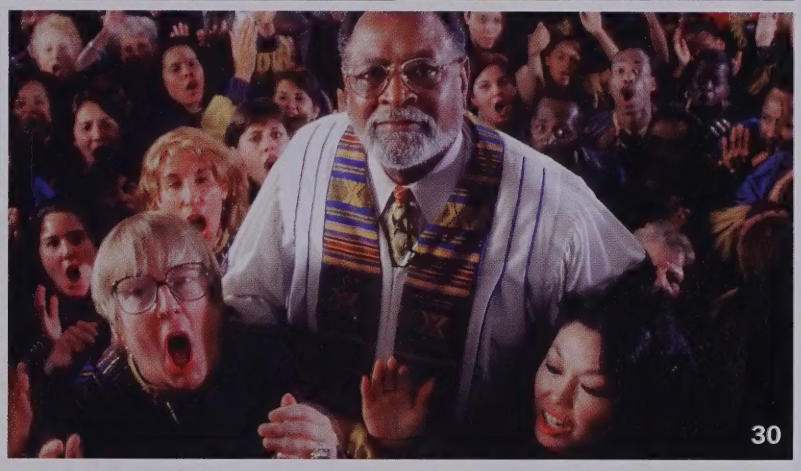

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VENUS

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief CHARLENE COTHRAN
Assistant to Publisher Kevin Chamberlain

EDITORIAL

Copy Editor *C. E. Cothran*

Fashion Stylist *Jerry Jordan Brown*

Contributing Writers *Michael A. Adams, Keith Barbee, Tina Fakhrid-Deen, Stanley Bennet Clay, Prince Leon Kusi, Craig Washington, Michael K. Watts*

Photography Cover Courtesy of UrbanWorld Films *Carol Friedman, Arthur Elgort, Tia Paul, Koi Sojer*

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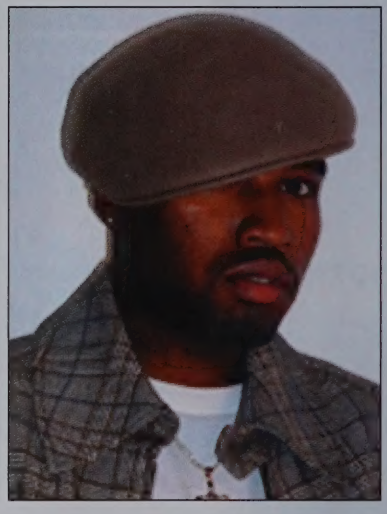
CONTRIBUTORS

Koi Sojer is a New York based Artographer, who has captured the entertainment industry for over 12 years. A former Professional Woman Basketball player and NGA Bodybuilding Champion, Koi brings strength and creativity to her craft when capturing her subjects. Her works have been published in Vibe, The Source, People, Jet, Blackbeat, Billboard, Pride & NY Daily News. So check out her images from the Black 2 Broadway event, page 32.



Keith Barbee is a 25 year-old native of Ripley, TN. Now a DC-resident, Keith sought refuge in books and the literary process early on. Words have always been important to him, even as a child. Bedtime stories and biblical passages read by his grandfather and the constant humming and singing of spirituals by his grandmother greatly influenced him. "Writing is an extension of who I am and who I hope to become." Check out his interview with Tony winner Melba Moore on page 14.

Tina Fakhrid-Deen is a writer, performer and educator. She is currently the Chicago Chapter Coordinator of COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere.) She lives in Chicago with her husband and newborn. Tina is working on a collection of essays, *Black Rainbow: The Voices of Adult Children with Same-Gender Loving Parents.* Check out her story *"What I Wish My Mama Had Known" page 34.*

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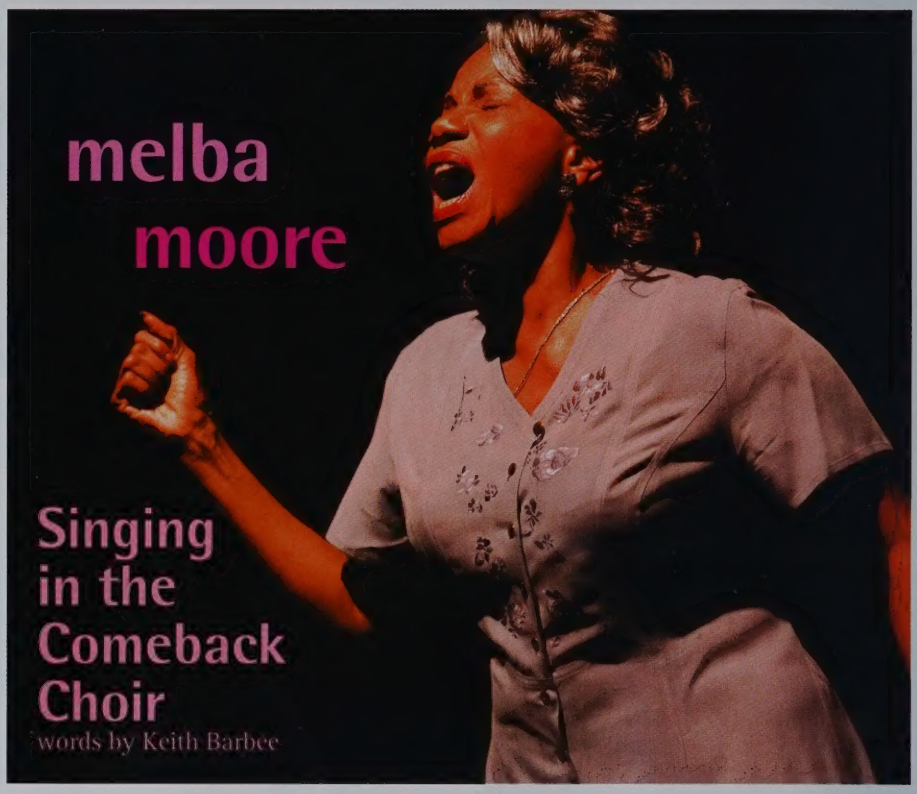


Singing in the Comeback Choir

words by Keith Barbee

Don't call it a comeback/ I been here for years." Rapper/ actor L.L. Cool J. may have rhymed those lyrics in his redemptive hit, "Mama Said Knock You Out" but legendary singer Melba Moore has lived them.

The Grammy-nominated artist is currently guest-starring as Jackie Wilson's mother, Eliza Mae, in *The Jackie Wilson Story*, which is currently touring the country. The play follows Jackie Wilson's journey through life from elementary school and growing up in Detroit, to his first meeting with Berry Gordy.

"The mother was a very, very close, loving, powerful influence on his life. You see him go through the drugs and the kind of thing America went through, certainly African Americans went through and how they tried to stay strong through it," Moore said recently from her Chicago hotel room.

Moore is enjoying her stint on the black play circuit, but is very aware of the stigma that has thwarted gospel plays as second rate, nonsensical, and demeaning. "Black plays are developing now and I'd like to participate in that, but I also want to be acknowledged for the status that I've achieved." she said.

She was the first black actress to receive a Tony award for her supporting actress performance as Lutiebelle Gussiemae Jenkins in the long-running musical Purlie and her 1990 recording of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was a catalyst in having the song entered into the Congressional Record as the official African American National Anthem.

But all of that came to a halt and if anyone deserved to sing a sad love song, it would have been Moore. After her former husband and manager illegally divorced her through forged documents in the early 90's she was left broke and eventually filed for bankruptcy. She made her story public after she was physically abused.

Down but not out, Moore stayed away from the public's eye until gospel playwright, Michael Matthews, contacted her to do one of his plays. "He basically took me out of harm's way and gave me employment and gave me my start in the gospel world," Moore said.

Now, she's focusing not only on acting, but recently released her first gospel album, *I'm Still Here*. "It has taken me several years to complete that and get it together because you have to have the life first," Moore said. "I'm a Christian. That's my life. God is first, middle, and last."

Rhythm and blues turned gospel singer, Shirley Murdock, penned the title track as an attempt to help Moore tell her testimony. Murdock and her husband Dale Degrote refused to make any kind of financial arrangement, she said. "They said, 'Melba, take the music, shop it, do what you need to do to get your life back together.'"

In addition to her role in *The Jackie Wilson Story*, her gospel album, and new outlook on life; Moore can be seen in the upcoming gospel musical comedy, *The Fighting Temptations* as a part of the all-star cast that includes Cuba Gooding, Jr., Beyonce Knowles, Steve Harvey, Yolanda Adams, Donnie McClurkin, Mary Mary, Angie Stone and others. "It's a hilarious comedy, sort of like a clean *Big Mama's House*," she said of the movie.

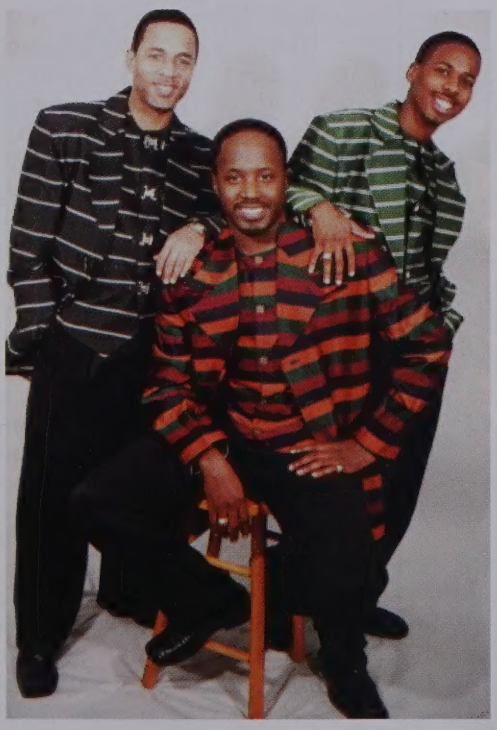
Moore has failed and succeeded in many mediums, but her tenacity, strength, and personal relationship with a higher power has elevated her to a plateau many never reach. Gospel has been her greatest fulfillment.

"You spend your whole life trying to figure out who you are and why you're here," Moore said. "Then you realize you're here to praise God and figure out what he wants to do with you and you weed the rest of it out. It's almost as though you haven't reached the mountaintop but you can see it."

Melba Moore with Martha and Chester Gregory III who plays Mr. Excitement Jackie Wilson, back stage at the Apollo Theatre, New York City.

Best in Show

This Pride season **Men of Rainbow**, the self procliamed 'Best in Male Entertainment' will rock legions of fans at various Black Pride events across the country. The gorgeous chocolate trio not only look good but have the stage presence, timing and dance moves that thrill audiences. But no real vocals on stage. . .yet. "We Lip Sync performances," say Marlowe. We do old R&B classics from The Temptations, Four Tops, Marvin Gaye, Isley Brothers N'Sync, 112, Prince, Lenny Williams, Michael Jackson, Boyz II Men, Ricky Martin, Sysqo, as well as Gospel, and etc." The trio will, however, produce a live CD [using their own vocals] entitled "No Stopping Us Now" scheduled for release late summer. For more information: (410) 356-4655 or www.menofrainbow.com.



Catch Roy, Marlowe and James of **Men of Rainbow** *at an upcoming Black Pride Celebration this August: NYC Black Gay Pride; Pittsburgh, PA Black Gay Pride; National Association of Black and White Men Together-Miami, FL; Jacksonville, FL Black Gay Pride; and Atlanta, GA Black Gay Pride.*

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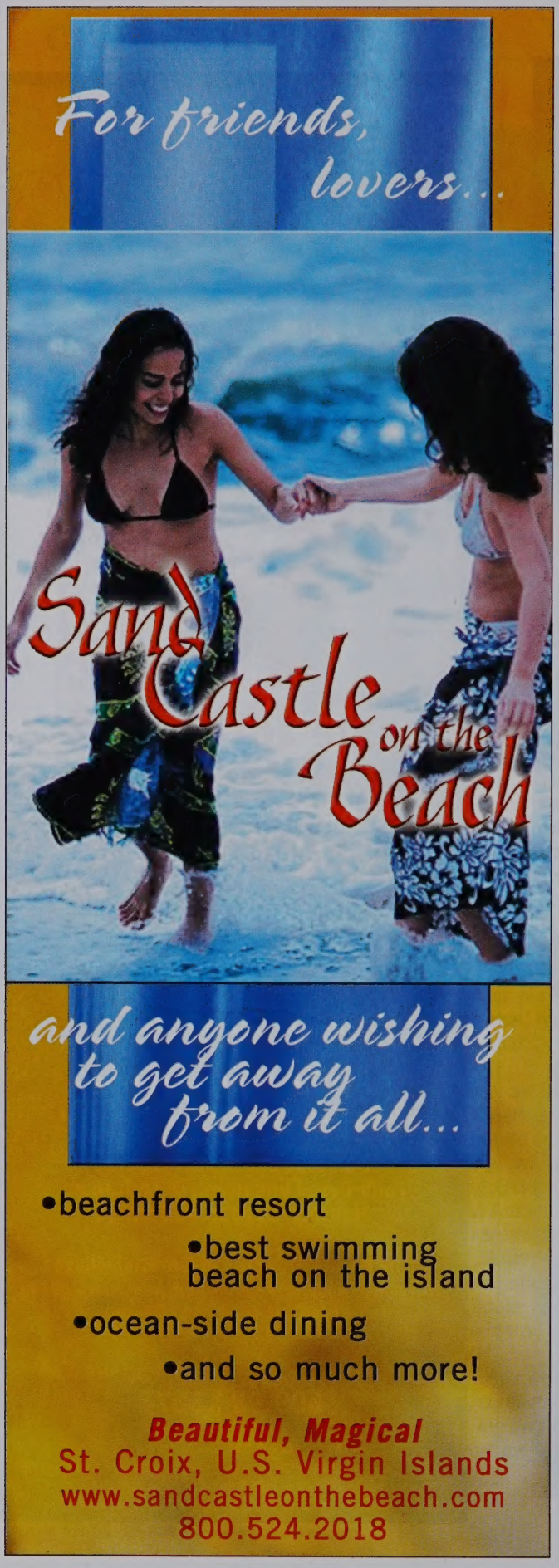


Vacationing guests at St. Croix's **Sand Castle on the Beach** form a 'Circle of Peace' at sundown on the Resort's beautiful water front property.

The Federation

of black prides heads to the mother land

The International Federation of Black Gay Prides (IFBP) and South Africa Black Gay Pride (SABP) will hold the first International Conference of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgender People of African Descent, Imbizo, October 27, 2003 through October 30, 2003 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

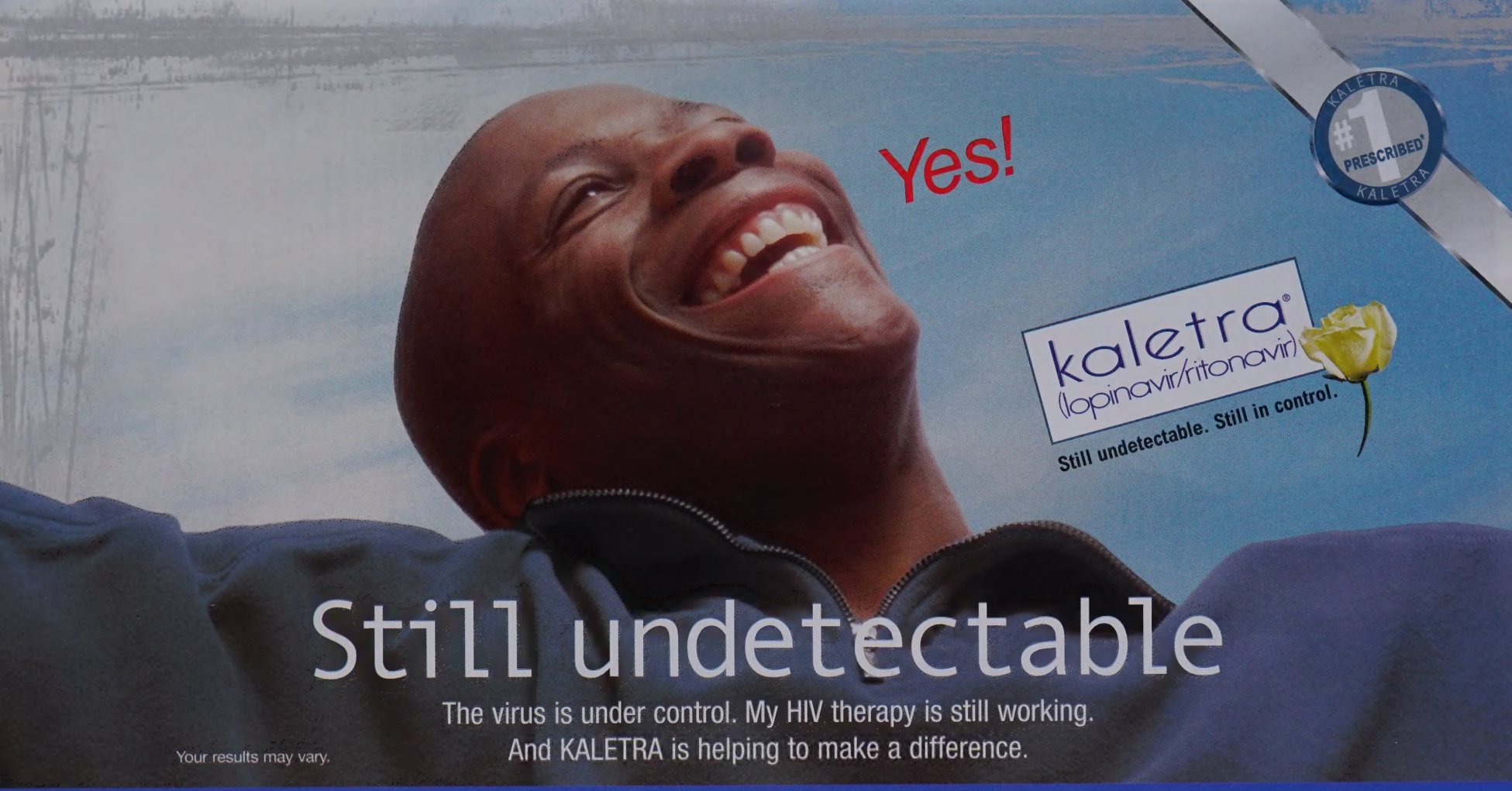
The mission of this historic conference is to bring lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of African descent from across the world together to share thoughts, ideas and information, on three broad subject categories, health, politics and culture, as they relate to the global community of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender persons of African descent. The theme of the conference is Imbizo a Xhosa word that refers to a meeting of elders.

The four (4) day conference will include workshops and plenary sessions with presenters from across the world, an opening reception and banquet and a closing event. "I believe that this will be the first time in history that LGBT people of African descent have ever come together to share their common experiences and those things that make us different at an event of this magnitude," said Earl Fowlkes, conference co-chair.

The dates of the conference also coincide with the fifth annual South African Black Pride week of celebrations that will begin on Sunday, October 26th, 2003 and conclude on Saturday, November 1st, 2003.

Conference registration is now open and will close on September 15, 2003. The Parktonian All Suites Hotel will serve as the official conference hotel. The conference endorsed travel package includes airfare and accommodations. To make travel arrangements contact Keith Stephens at 212/262.6100 ext. 205 or keith@carlsontrvl.com.

For more information about the conference and registration contact conference co-chairs Earl Fowlkes, IFBP President at 202/841.7104 or by e-mail at jrfowlkes@aol.com, and SABP President Andile Vinjiwe at 27 11 624 3235 or andile@africanpride.org. Visit www.africanpride.org.



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KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA or any of its ingredients.

Pancreatitis and liver problems, which can be fatal, have been reported. Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver disease such as hepatitis. In patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol.

In clinical trials, the most commonly reported side effects of moderate or severe intensity were: abdominal pain, abnormal bowel movements, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache, and nausea. This is not a complete list of reported side effects.

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol.

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing of HIV to others.

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

*Based on IMS HEALTH National Prescription Audit Plus for Protease Inhibitor Class. July 2002–January 2003

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March 2003

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(lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with KALETRA. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

Patient Information

KALETRA®

(kuh-LEE-tra)

Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir
(lop-IN-uh-veer/rit-ON-uh-veer)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD_4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take KALETRA?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?*

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.
  - Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
  - Halcion® (triazolam)
  - Hismanal® (astemizole)
  - Orap® (pimozide)
  - Propulsid® (cisapride)
  - Rythmol® (propafenone)
  - Seldane® (terfenadine)
  - Tambocor™ (flecainide)
  - Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.
- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- **A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:**

Phenobarbital

Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)

Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

- **Other Special Considerations:**

  KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

- If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:

  Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.
- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abdominal pain, abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.
- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- *If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:* The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- *If you are breast-feeding:* Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- *If you have liver problems:* If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- *If you have diabetes:* Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- *If you have hemophilia:* Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.
- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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"I've got a secret to share. Located right in the heart of Philly's upscale shopping district is **Alma de Cuba**, serving what is best described as "Nuevo Latino," a must do on your next visit."

words by Michael Andre Adams

getting there:

Location: 1623 Walnut St., Philadelphia , (215) 988-1799, www.almadecubarestaurant.com
Hours: Dinner Only! Monday thru Thursday, 5-11 p.m Friday's & Saturday's till midnight; Sunday's 5-10 p.m.
Cocktails: $9 Wines: $8-13 per glass; Ceviche: $9-15; Soups:$6; Appetizers: $9-14
Entrees: $19-31 Deserts: $8

When was the last time you visited Philadelphia? The City of Brotherly Love has transformed itself into an Epicurean's delight! Master chefs are everywhere! Even Murimoto, the "Iron Chef" himself, has a restaurant there. No longer are visitors and residents alike required to make the hour and a half trek north to New York for world class cuisine.

If you're the fried food, meat and potatoes type, Delilah's, in the Reading Terminal on Arch at 12th , sets it off for lunch, according to my dear friend, local designer, Andre Thomas. Warm Daddy's on Front Street at Market, features soul food and live blues in a colorfully stimulating atmosphere. If an elegant helping of jazz served up as a side entrée to a delicious cat fish dinner is what you had in mind, try Zanzibar Blue on Broad Street below the prestigious Bellevue Hotel, just south of city hall.

For the more cutting edge and risqué individual living on the edge of discovery, I've got a secret to share. Located right in the heart of Philly's upscale shopping district is Alma de Cuba. Serving what is best described as "Nuevo Latino," Alma de Cuba is a must do on your next visit.

Fine dining in the form of edible art is how they do it. Every item served is both picturesque and delectable. Craig LaBan from the Philadelphia Enquirer so eloquently described a dish there as "Displayed in all its terrifying intrigue, what looked like a tiny clamshell with a beak attached to one side trailed a plume of crablike meat out the other and was perched on what looked like a hollowed-out rock filled with flan. The rock, in fact, was the barnacle's shell, and the mildly sea-flavored flan (made with barnacle juice) hid a few sweet surprises – dates and caramelized onion – in its custard." Are we talking food or art? I'd say both!

From the bar, my suggestion is the Alma Colada. Made with passion fruit juice, coconut milk and white rum blended and topped with Myers's dark rum and shaved coconut, you'll taste it and feel it.

Once seated an elegant selection of Ceviche heads up the menu. Choose from main lobster and crab, Ecuadorian shrimp, rainbow-a trilogy of tuna, salmon and merluza, a flaky white Chilean fish, and a few others. Ceviche is one of those either you like it or you don't kind of dishes. Like the secret to good sushi, my suggestion for Ceviche consumption is that you go where you know the fish is fresh and you wont go wrong in the restaurant or later that night, if you feel me.

As a lover of gourmet soups, a natural choice was the trio of soups: small portions of Gloria's black bean, with creamy rice croquettes and a drizzle of sour cream, sancocho de pollo, a coconut-chicken broth with poached chicken slices, yucca, carrots, cilantro, green peas and a touch of lime juice. Rounding out the trilogy is the calabaza soup, a puree of spiced calabaza with pepita crusted queso fresco and a drizzle of sage oil. I've come up with some masterful creations at home, none of which could

Continued on page 46

Life and Style According to A.L.T.

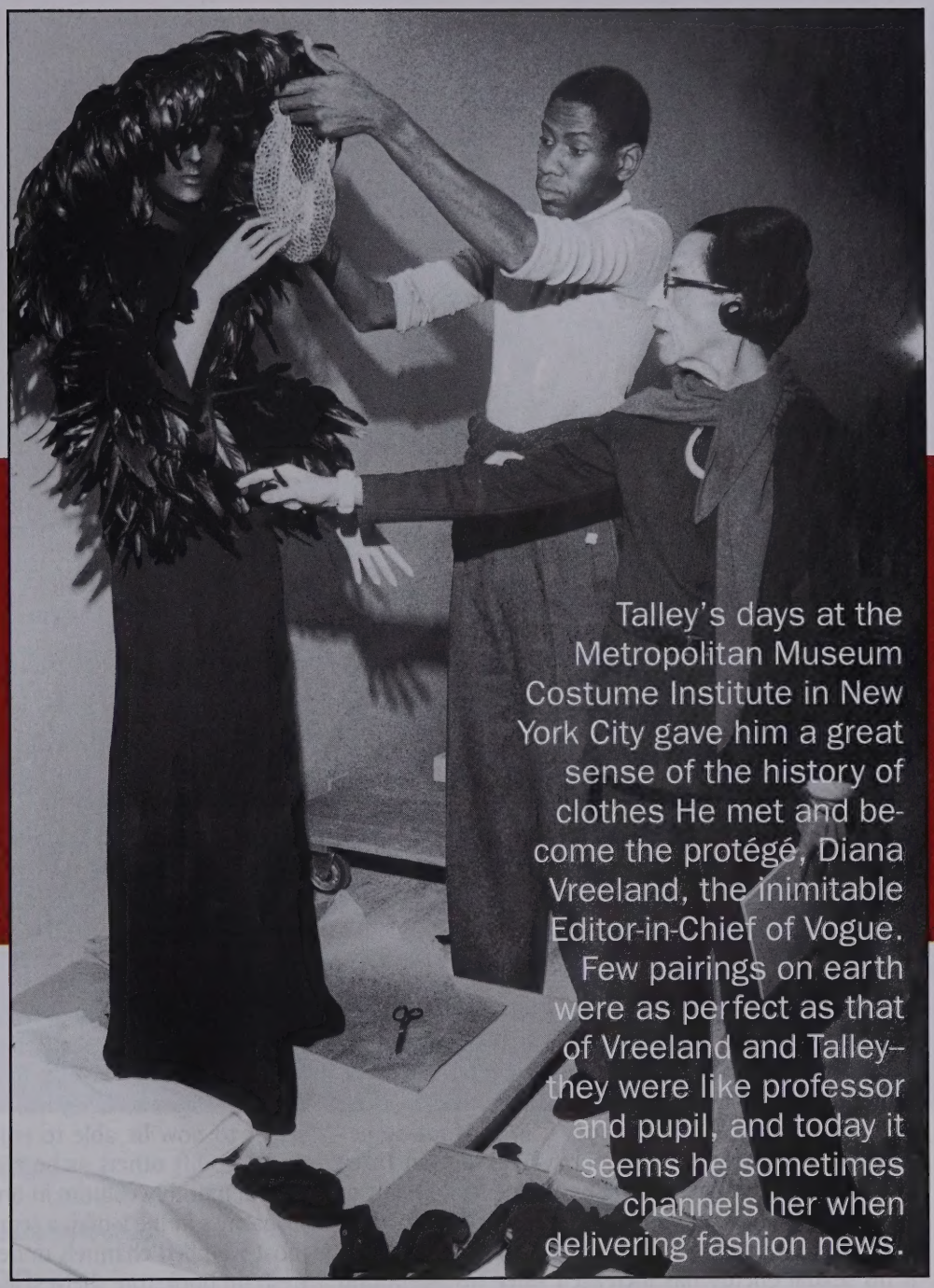
Words by Prince-Leon Kusi
Edited by Michael K. Watts.
Images by Arthur Elgort

A glimpse at the life of one of the world's most influential fashion icons

In the fashion demimonde, even amongst supermodels and superstar designers, his name looms above all others: Andre Leon Talley. With an appellation which seems to point to his parents' prescience about his greatness, Vogue's six-foot-seven Editor at Large often gets as much attention as the fashionistas about whom he writes. As one of the country's premier style arbiters, working at the nation's premier fashion magazine, Talley is largely responsible for influencing the tastes and trends that trickle down throughout America. Using his "Style Fax" column as his vehicle, he has devoted his life to sifting through all of the would-be fabulous designs and bringing his readers the best of the best, each and every month. But it was a long journey for Talley to rise to the top of the fashion world, as he details in his new book, "A.L.T.: A Memoir" (Villard Books).

Talley's story is one that finds him in the center of two very important women in his life who taught him life's most enduring lessons. Born in Washington D.C., Talley was raised by his maternal grandmother, Bennie Frances Davis, in Durham, North Carolina. Davis was a dignified and hard-working maid who cleaned the men's dormitories at Duke University. Theirs was a loving home full of simple luxuries--pressed sheets, beautiful church clothes and savory family meals. It was an upbringing that instilled a sense of place, strong values and unshakeable faith that would serve him well in his quest to become a fashion editor, a career choice he made known at the tender age of 14. One can imagine the sound of jaws dropping as he communicated this goal to Durham locals.

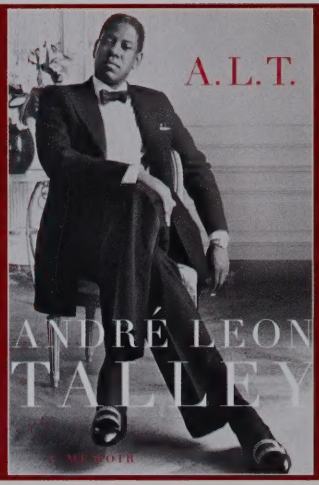
Undeterred and taking his grandmother's advice to "see a world full of possibilities" to heart, he earned his Master's Degree in French studies from Brown University and went on to become an intern at the Metropolitan Museum Costume Institute in New York City. His days at the Costume Institute



Talley's days at the Metropolitan Museum Costume Institute in New York City gave him a great sense of the history of clothes He met and become the protégé, Diana Vreeland, the inimitable Editor-in-Chief of Vogue. Few pairings on earth were as perfect as that of Vreeland and Talley--they were like professor and pupil, and today it seems he sometimes channels her when delivering fashion news.

gave him a great sense of the history of clothes, evident in all of his fashion commentary. His experience there also gave him the opportunity to meet and become the protégé of another important woman in his life, Diana Vreeland, the inimitable Editor-in-Chief of Vogue. Vreeland would have an enormous influence on the way that Talley would see, think about, and write about fashion.

Vreeland was no ordinary fashion journalist. For her, fashion editing was not just a job; it was a calling, and her commitment to her profession was unceasing. She was a woman who, after a trip to Japan, was seldom seen without her Kabuki-style makeup. Her avant garde style was best epitomized in her "Why Don't You" column in which she offered suggestions to American women by asking such things as, "Why don't you wear a bathing suit to the office?" There are few pairings on earth as perfect as that of Vreeland and Talley--they were like professor and pupil, and today it seems he sometimes channels her



Talley was raised by his maternal grandmother, Bennie Frances Davis, in Durham, North Carolina. Theirs was a loving home was full of simple luxuries--pressed sheets, beautiful church clothes and savory family meals. It was an upbringing that instilled a sense of place, strong values and unshakeable faith.

when delivering fashion news. Commenting on Helmut Lang's Fall 2002 line of women's shoes Talley said, "You'll be rewarded, wear them to bed, put them up on the pillow." This was a classic example of his special brand of Vreeland-esque delivery which has made him, the star maker, a star himself.

And as with everyone from J. Lo to Star Jones, this newfound stardom led to the next logical step: television. Last year, Talley was the gracious host of "Vogue's Talley," a weekly segment on Metro TV's Full Frontal Fashion show in New York, which garnered him an Emmy nomination. His words were always impeccably well chosen, his phrases well turned. But to hear the man himself actually saying them increased their value by at least 100 percent. Unlike with the magazine, this show gave him the opportunity to highlight both black and gay designers, models, and fashion insiders. Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, modeling coach J. Alexander, models Alek Wek and Iman, and even his pastor, Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts III, have all found themselves in front of Talley's cameras. J. Alexander, all six-foot-something of him, even put on his pumps and showed Talley how he teaches models to walk. In one installment of "Vogue's Talley," he was riding through New York in Karl Lagerfeld's deluxe SUV when he asked the designer if his sexual energy has increased since his 90-pound weight loss. Now, you would have never seen that in Vogue!

Perhaps it is the journalistic instinct, but for Talley self-promotion never seems to be the goal. He is happy for his recognition to come as a by-product of him recognizing others. This is most refreshing and unusual in an industry that is fueled at least as much by ego as by talent. Even in those moments which are set aside as times for him to be recognized, he manages to turn the focus to others. While receiving a lifetime achievement award at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology during New York's Fashion Week, Talley spent the majority of his acceptance speech on a roll call of black people who have made a difference in this country. So extensive and inclusive was the list that it even included Mae West, because "she hired a lot of colored maids in her movies."

Unlike with the magazine, this [television] show gave him the opportunity to highlight both black and gay designers, models, and fashion insiders.

He may enjoy shining the spotlight on others rather than standing in its glare, but his time to shine is long overdue. Having been a fixture in the fashion world for over 30 years, Talley has truly paid his dues and deserves to now be able to enjoy the ride. Yet, he continues to lift others as he climbs. With a hugely successful monthly column in one of the most well-known magazines in the world, a segment on one of New York's most watched channels under his belt, and his memoir fresh on bookstore shelves, it is safe to say that Talley is not only the King of Fashion but also the King of Fashion Media.

And strangely, none of it seems to have gone to his head. He still goes to church in Harlem every Sunday, he still flies coach, and he still eats Krispy Kreme doughnuts, as he wrote about in his July 2002 column. In spite of his down-to-earth manner and his resistance to the uppity tendencies favored by most fashion hounds, Talley has come a mighty long way. And because he is discontented taking the ride alone, we have all come a long way, a mighty, mighty long way.

SUSTIVA (efavirenz) in combination with other antiretroviral agents is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or prevent passing HIV to others.

Safety Information

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams. These feelings tend to go away after taking the medication for a few weeks. Mild to moderate rash is another common side effect. A small number of patients have reported severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. There have been a few reports of suicide but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. SUSTIVA should not be taken with Hismanal® (astemizole), Propulsid® (cisapride), Versed® (midazolam), Halcion® (triazolam) or ergot derivatives. Tell your doctor about any medications or herbal products (particularly St. John's wort) that you are taking. Women should not become pregnant or breast-feed while taking SUSTIVA.

Please see important information about SUSTIVA on next page.

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PATIENT INFORMATION

SUSTIVA®* (sus-TEE-vah)

[efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)] capsules and tablets

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with SUSTIVA.

Please also read the section **"MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA."**

Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used in combination with other medicines to help treat infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of anti-HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Serious psychiatric problems. A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Common side effects. Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash is common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

General Information

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.
- Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

Capsules

- The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).

Tablets

- The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA?

- **Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant.** Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. **Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
- **Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you

- **have problems with your liver, or have hepatitis.** Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- **have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, **it is very important to:**

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your prescription and non-prescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

Taking SUSTIVA with St. John's wort *(hypericum perforatum)*, an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA**:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Fortovase®, Invirase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Mycobutin® (rifabutin)
- Methadone

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

General advice about SUSTIVA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59° to 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at http://www.sustiva.com or call 1-800-426-7644.

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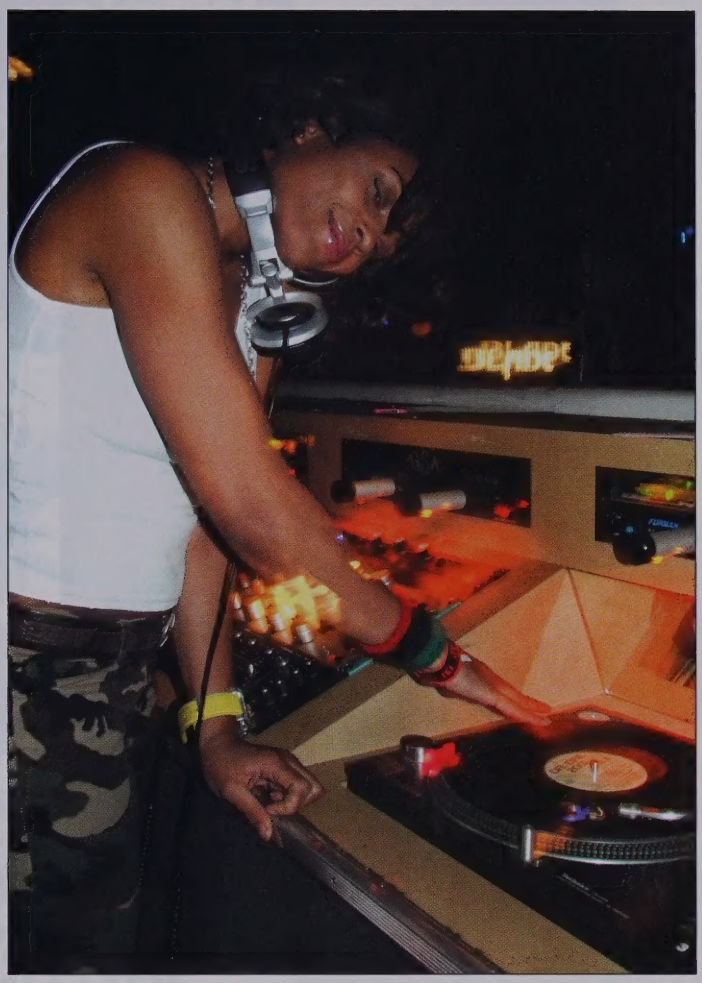
Revised April 2002

Lady DJ

Award-Winning Women Rockin' the One and Twos

words and photography by Tina Paul



DJ BEVERLY BOND at Joe's Pub/NYC

New Line Cinema and Black Diamonds presented Blade 2 /House of Pain premiere party at Centro Fly hosted by Wesley Snipes with DJs Beverly Bond, Tracy Young, Liquid Todd and E-Love.

The Gotham Celebrity DJ series at Joe's Pub that other night was packed with urban music-industry types and their hangers-on. Beautiful model-DJ Beverly Bond WORKED the dance floors! She also release an album last summer. She's not singing on it–just produced all the tracks, with other guests handling the vocals.

Look for her party, WQMB, at club Candy, in collaboration with former Tribe Called Quest frontman Q-Tip and "DJ to the Stars" Mark Ronson. "We're playing hip-hop and soul. Like, real good hip-hop" said Bond. "You know what I mean?" I think so, Bev.

DJ HEATHER at Seasons/Afterhours/All World-Chicago

DJ Heather, Chicago's best-kept secret, has been spending the least amount of her time on the international circuit. Heather's style has become synonymous with her special delivery of underground house, with elements of techno and classic disco. "Many things influence me, more than just one sound. If it's quality music and I enjoy it, I'll play that record...You have to bring a little bit of everything to what you do and that makes for a broader experience." Heather is a Chicago house pioneer trained in the art of transforming dance floors into jumpin'-bumpin' stomping ground.

Quickly becoming one of America's most in-demand DJs, Heather has demonstrated her sharp ability to take hold of the masses - from Vancouver to Toronto, to Berlin, France and Ibiza, Heather is tearing up the floors. DJ Heather has shared the stage with Jamiroquai, Black Grape, and performs as one-third of SUPERJANE, an entity comprised of three very different, but equally determined double-deck talents. Together, DJ Heather, Dayhota and Colette are Chicago's first and only all-female DJ collective.

DJ KAYO from London

DJ Kayo Plays a seamless blend of dance provoking House wrapped in the finest rythms. She played in Miami last summer with 6 other female DJ's called "7 AND 7" (SEVEN INTERNATIONAL FEMALE DJS) at Tantra and at Opium Garden for Essential Mix Party.

Vocalist TAMARA WALLACE

Murk boys Oscar Gaetan and Ralph Falcon were hyped more on respect than sales figures before they broke out of the American dance mainstream with two of the biggest hits of 1996-97, "Get Fired Up!" and "The Way" by Funky Green Dogs. Gaetan and Falcon had been producing for their own Murk Recordings since the early '90s, and had earned club-play with hits by Liberty City "Some Lovin'," "If You Love Someone" and remixes for Madonna, Pet Shop Boys, the Beloved and RuPaul, among others. After the album "Get Fired Up" appeared in late 1996, a second single "The Way" hit number one on the dance charts. The duo added new vocalist Tamara Wallace, a native of the Bahamas, for their second album "Star."

Though they've added a new singer and moved a bit farther toward actual songwriting, the Murk boys prove they still know their way around some crucial tribal-house grooves. Tamara adds more emotional flair to Funky Green Dogs than past records, and the single "Body" is more than just an interesting club tune.

DJ PAULETTE Nervous/Ministry of Sound

Paulette is one of the most stunning and inspiring radio presenters Ministry has. She's been in front of the mic and camera for so much of her life that fronting Ministry's mid-mornings is merely natural progression! From a Radio 1 series in1994 to fronting a youth TV show on Granada, she's now the face of *MTV Dance* alongside Judge Jules. On top of a best selling album on Nervous Records, DJ-ing around the world and recently working for Azuli, she's been a regular Ministry Of Sound Radio presenter since the launch a year ago. Pauiette's cheeky and endearing on air persona regularly bags her up to 200 emails per show from fans worldwide and her music choices are inspirational. There's no doubt Paulette is in the ascendancy - remember where you heard her!

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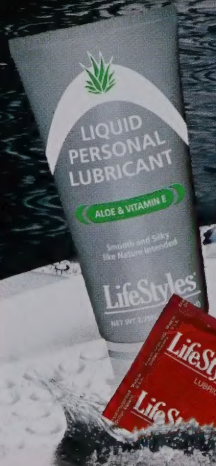

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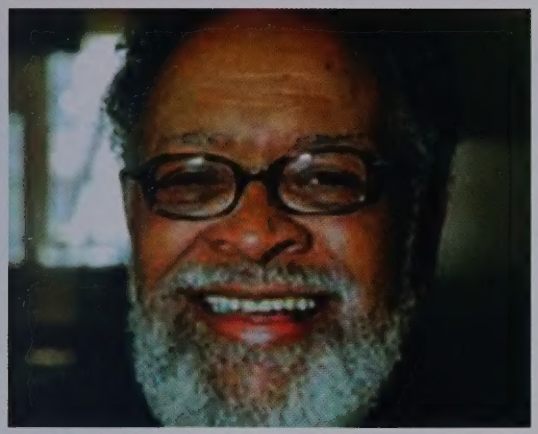

Reverend Cecil Williams will be featured in the six-part PBS documentary This Far by Faith: African-American Spiritual Journeys *airing June 24-26, 2003 at 9 pm. Check your local listings.*

THE-COME-AS-YOU ARE MINISTRY OF The Rev. CECIL WILLIAMS

words by Stanley Bennett Clay

Images by Nita Winter

On February 16, 1974, kidnapped newspaper heiress Patty Hearst made an audiotape explanation defending her SLA captives. She trusted Reverend Cecil Williams to make the delivery to her family. In San Francisco and indeed the world the choice of emissary seemed only logical. The young radical minister, who eight years earlier took over the failing Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, located in San Francisco's notorious red light district known as The Tenderloin, had quickly earned a reputation for bridging the divide between acceptance and rejection, hope and hopelessness. Glide Memorial, under the 37 year guidance of Reverend Williams, has gone from a 35-member white middleclass church in 1966 to an 11,000 member sanctuary today that welcomes all faiths, races, nationalities and sexual orientations.

"The church is not four walls. The church is the people," says Williams. "We relate to people, no matter who they are or what they're into. About 40% of our church is gay and I love it," Williams says from his San Francisco church office.

"The church aught not deny people. In the New Testament I don't see anywhere where Jesus rejected anybody. It is unChristian to deny people the right to accept themselves as they are."

Born in the small Jim Crow southern town of San Angelo, Texas (population 35,000) during the early 1930's, Cecil Williams knew he had a calling from a very young age.

"Cecil was called rare," remembers his older brother Reedy. "He knew as a kid of 10 or 12 exactly what he was going to do in life. He always spoke his mind."

After high school Cecil became one of the first African Americans to attend Southern Methodist University where he admits he "failed miserably." He then headed west and studied at Berkeley during the beat generation, but it was later in Kansas City, Missouri where his radicalism came into full swing and he became a student and advocate of Liberation Theology.

The new young minister was then sent to San Francisco where he was assigned to pastor Glide immediately scandalizing the small, conservative white congregation by stepping over the pulpit and preaching in the aisle.

"I took the cross down in the church too because the suffering is not up there. It's down here with the people."

When his outraged congregants could not get him fired they left. Undaunted Reverend Williams canvassed the blighted neighborhood that surrounded him. He went to bars, to the streets, to the parks and crack dens. He spoke to prostitutes and drug addicts, the homeless and the ailing, the poor and the down-trodden. His message of acceptance and inclusion was as infectious as the live jazz-gospel music he soon had blaring from the sanctuary of Glide Memorial. Soon the pews began to fill with a diverse crowd of people, many of them feeling loved and accepted for the first time.

"We must always keep our ears to the drumbeat of the people. We must always be on the cutting edge, to be there for the people who are suffering."

Speakers as diverse as Angela Davis and Hillary Clinton before the congregation which includes an 8 piece band and a 140 voice choir ("Brother, we get down up in here," Reverend Williams laughs). Glide's staff and volunteers also serve over a million meals a year to the hungry while providing shelter and support to battered women and persons living with HIV/AID.

"The church must lead the way in humanizing, not de-humanizing people," says the outspoken minister, author, lecturer, husband, father and grandfather. "We must engage in unconditional love and unconditional acceptance. I am convinced that that is what we are supposed to be doing!

The Stars of Broadway came out in full force last Spring to congratulate Kevin Anthony and Sean Hollingsworth on the occasion of their one year anniversary of the baddest show in town, Black 2 Broadway. The Supper Club in the heart of Manhattan was filled to capacity with entertainment industry insiders eager to feel the fire. The all star performance cast did not disappoint!

Black 2 Broadway Celebrates a Milestone

Artography by Koi Sojer

1. Kevin Anthony, Sean Hollingsworth (producers of B2B), Malik Yoba & Alyson Williams
2. Ron Grant, Ramona Keller, Victor Cook, and BJ Crosby
3. Marva Hicks, Angelique Francis and Star Jones
4. Shirley Murdock & Darryl Tookes
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what i wish my mama had known

words by Tina Fakhrid-Deen

"I often felt, lonely, ashamed, fearful, guilty, and detached. I never told my mother how I felt because I never wanted to hurt her. I knew that she got enough of that from everyone else. As a result, she assumed that everything was fine. Most gay parents do make that incorrect assumption. "

I am a 29 year-old Black heterosexual woman and my mother is a lesbian. She came out to me when I was about 10. It went something like this:

"Do you love Michael Jackson?"

"Yup," I said.

"Well, what if I told you that Michael Jackson was gay?"

"Then I'd call you a lie." (long pause)

"What if I told you that I was gay?"

"Then I'd say so what."

That was the last childhood conversation that I recall us having about my mother's sexual orientation. However, that was not the only time the topic came up. Her homosexuality came up when my grandmother told me that I should come and live with her and get away from my mother and her "nasty ways." It popped up at several churches when the pastor unknowingly demonized my mother by saying that all gays would go to hell. It reared its head in school when kids mocked my gay teacher or when they said ignorant things like "that's so gay" or any other flurry of anti-gay attacks such as dyke, sissy, bulldagger, and faggot.

It slithered in when I asked my mom to use her car, praying that folks would not know what the rainbow sticker in the window represented. It jumped out when people mistakenly referred to my mama as "sir" because she was so butch. It bounced around in my head when I only saw male-female relationships portrayed on television and in my favorite movies. It crept up when I decided to remain a virgin beyond high school because for a while I, along with the boys trying to get into my pants, thought I might be gay. My point is that it came up damn near everyday – loud and clear. There was no way to ignore or distance myself from my mother's sexual identity and no one to discuss it with.

I often felt, lonely, ashamed, fearful, guilty, and detached. I never told my mother how I felt because I never wanted to hurt her. I knew that she got enough of that from everyone else. As a result, she assumed that everything was fine. Most gay parents do make that incorrect assumption.

Now, I am not making any arguments against gay parenting and; nor am saying that I was negatively affected by my mother being lesbian. If you are gay, lesbian, bi or trans, keep doing you. I applaud you for being yourself and living your life without compromise. However, as a parent, you have a responsibility to your children to communicate with them regarding the issues they may face as kids with LGBT parents. Parents cannot assume that their job is done once they have openly come out to their kids. This has to be a continuous conversation, especially during their adolescent years and especially in the homophobic Black community. Our culture does not tend to support its LGBT constituents nor their families. Our families are on a large scale, invisible and un-

accepted. Ignoring this fact leaves your children more vulnerable to heterosexist, cultural bullcrap and that's what can negatively affect their development.

As an adult child of a gay parent, having worked often with children of LGBT parents and looking back at the things that my own mother could have done a little better, I think I have a few credentials to impart some advice. I would like to provide a basic roadmap to Black LGBT parents:

1) Understand that when you come out, your children eventually have to fall out of the closet too. Although it may not be of the same magnitude, we share some of the same fears and issues that you faced during your coming out process (i.e. fear of backlash, dealing with religious issues, internal shame, feelings of despair, loneliness, etc.) Therefore, don't be surprised if your child has a hard time accepting you or accepting themselves as children with LGBT parents. We all have a desire to "fit in" on some level and our lives definitely do not fit into the traditional family mold. In most cases, it took you years to accept yourself as gay, so do not expect it to be an immediate, uncomplicated process for your children.

2) Understand that many of us do have issues with our parents being gay due to the massive societal pressures of living in a "straight" world. I have heard parents say that their kids are fine with them being gay and this may be true but do not put on the rose-colored contacts just yet. Per Abigail Garner, author of *Families Like Mine*, between infancy and prior to middle-school, kids tend to feel safer about their parents being gay because society has not stepped in full force to challenge that notion yet. Once kids get to an age where they 1) are more independent, 2) can intellectually process information, and 3) care about what their peers think, the floodgates of media, family, peers, and religion step in to thwart all of your family affirmation efforts. Do not be anybody's fool. We have not reached the mountaintop just yet. You must put your children in spiritual, social and educational environments where they are affirmed and can see reflections of themselves, especially as Black youth. First, find a spiritual center that supports Black LGBT families. Then, find a youth support group for your children like COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere.) If you cannot find an organization that fit their needs, stop complaining and start your own group. You can begin by getting your friends' kids all together in one space with some pizza and music. Make sure that it is free of nosy adults since you will probably be using someone's home initially. Given enough opportunities to be together, the children will begin to forge healthy and supportive relationships and create a space for them to discuss issues important to them. Last, make sure that your children's schools are LGBT friendly. It is difficult enough to learn without negative messages about gays swarming around your children. I dare to say that most schools in predominantly Black communities have not begun the important task of protecting Black LGBT youth in the academic setting, which means that your children are not protected either. Help schools to form gay and straight alliances. Break the myth that being gay is a white reality.

> "Parents cannot assume that their job is done once they have openly come out to their kids. This has to be a continuous conversation, especially during their adolescent years and especially in the homophobic Black community."

3) Listen to your children. Sometimes, as Black parents we follow our own parents' authoritarian style of parenting where kids should be seen and not heard. That is not going to work this time, so hang it up. Let them talk freely about their feelings about having a gay parent and some of the unique difficulties they may face. Sometimes we are reluctant to speak our minds for fear that we will either hurt our parents' feelings, be seen as disrespectful, or invoke anger. If your children fear that there will be repercussions if they open their mouths, then it will be impossible to have open, honest dialogue. Even if they are not talking much, watch the behavior they exhibit at home and at

Continued on page 46

a vigil and a verdict

the murderer of an Atlanta attorney is acquitted of all charges

words by Craig Washington

On March 22, 2003 Atlanta organizers held a candlelight vigil in downtown Marietta to protest the acquittal of Roderquis Rashad Reed, who was charged with the May 2001 murder of Ahmed Dabarran, a 32 year-old closeted black gay man originally from Somalia. Dabarran was a highly respected Fulton County assistant attorney. Reed bludgeoned Dabarran to death in his sleep and admitted to taking his victims car and cell phone afterward yet was acquitted of all charges.

The charges included malice murder, felony murder, aggravated assault and theft. The organizers considered the Cobb County trial a mockery of justice that was manipulated by the use of the "gay panic" defense. Vigil organizers highlighted not only the defense team's tactics but the abject negligence and homophobia displayed by the Cobb County prosecutor Tom Cole. Steve Koval who convened the vigil committee days after the Feb. 28 verdict, told attendants, "Ahmed (Dabarran) was victimized three times, once by his brutal murder, a second time by the disgusting lies his murdered told at the trial...and finally by the justice system which he served so faithfully."

Among the speakers were Faisal Dabarani, Dabarran's brother and Holly Hughes, a colleague who is prosecuting the highly publicized hate crimes case against a Morehouse student charged with beating another student with a baseball bat last November. The event included performances by Adodi Muse, the self-described gay Negro ensemble and the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus. Fulton County Assistant DA Tamarra Ross recited a wrenching poem.

The Promise
Will somebody speak for me
Will somebody tell of the joy with which I lived
The compassion I shared
The dedication with which I served
Will somebody please speak for me
Fifteen blows to my skull
I can speak no more.

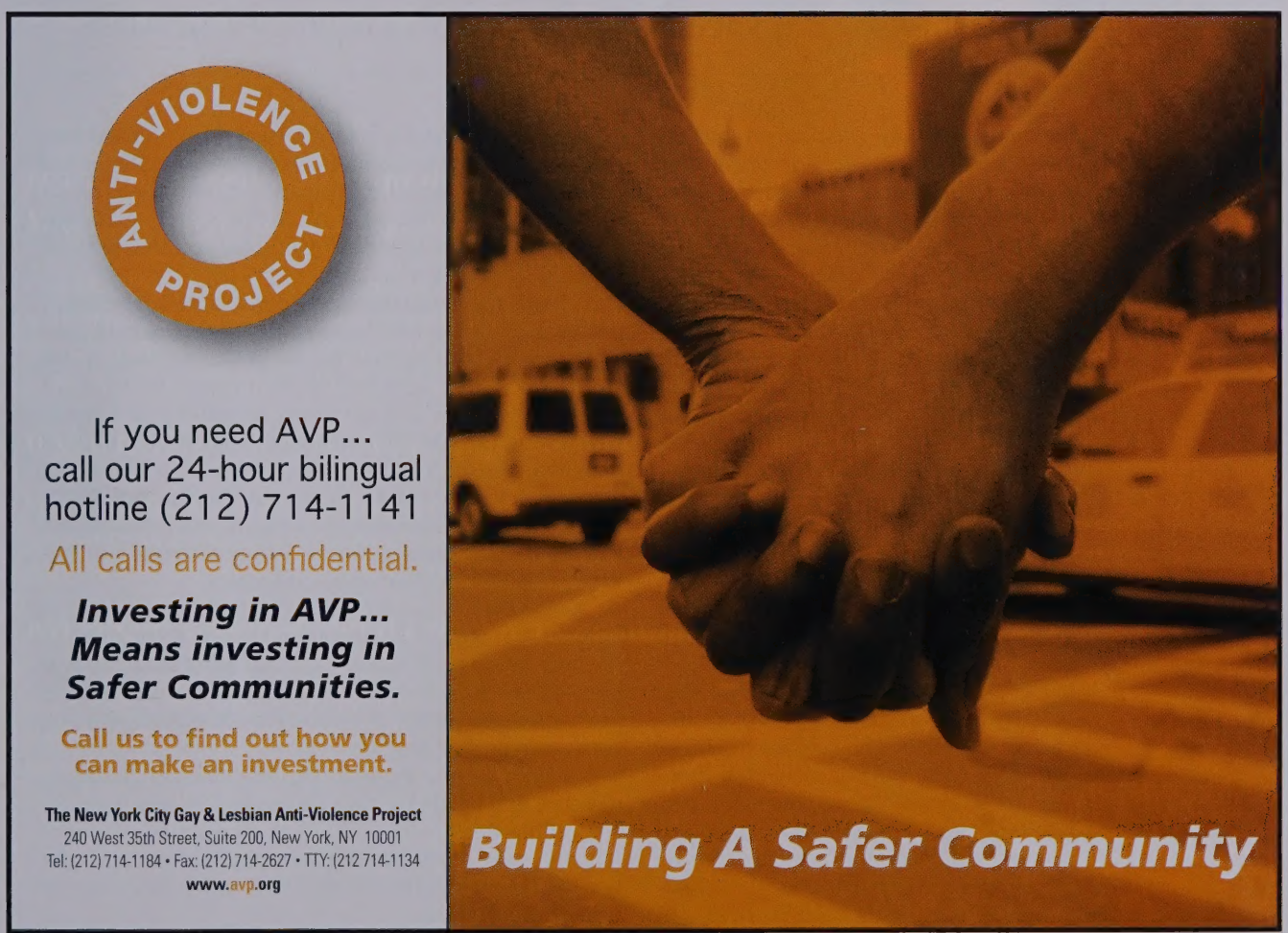
At the trial Reed's attorney Vic Reynolds stated that Reed, a 21 year old black man, and Dabarran met through a chat line. Dabarran invited Reed to a party at his apartment "where there would be lots of girls." A friend of Reed's testified that after Reed arrived at Dabarran's apartment, Dabarran and an unidentified man were playing "homosexual porno tapes." Reynolds said that when Reed objected, Dabarran performed oral sex on him at gunpoint. Reed admitted to hitting him in the head with a pot after he had fallen asleep after drinking rum for hours in order to escape. The Cobb County medical examiner testified that Dabarran had been hit 15 times with a blunt object and that his skull was beaten into his spine. His decomposing body was found in his apartment three days later after colleagues alerted Cobb police that he was missing.

In his closing argument Vic Reynolds offered the following paradoxical portrait of Dabarran. "By day an educated, articulate, felony prosecutor, a married man. The other side of a coin is a man who was on chat lines with teenagers, who frequented gay bars, who preferred street males. A man who picked up other men – a life of deceit. That lifestyle had an effect on my client." The gay panic defense is a commonly used defense attorney's strategy crafted to manipulate anti-gay biases embedded throughout the system and society to justify their defendant's victimization of gays and lesbians. It has often been successfully employed to ensure the acquittal of perpetrators whose guilt appears unquestionable. This device is in many ways an adaptation of tactics used to defend lynching, racist police brutality, and the rape and abuse of women. The defense attorney underscores those acts and characteristics of the victim that are associated with negative stereotypes historically assigned to the victim's

> "The gay panic defense is a commonly used defense attorney's strategy crafted to manipulate anti-gay biases embedded throughout the system and society to justify their defendant's victimization of gays and lesbians."

race, sexual orientation and/or gender. Empathy and culpability are transposed as the jury is swayed to identify with the defendant. Assignation of guilt is transferred from the perpetrator to the victim, and empathy is retracted from the victim and bestowed upon the perpetrator.

Several followers of the case claimed that prosecutor Cole failed to provide a competent case. In an apparent attempt to negate Reed's self-identification as heterosexual, Cole told the jury, "(Reed) appeared to be a diligent son during the day, but in the wee hours of the morning he's talking about partying with two homosexuals." Ironically, Cole's re-presentation of Reed closely resembles Reynold's Jekyl and Hyde depiction of Dabarran in its implicit indictment of homosexuality. Cole continually mispronounced Dabarran's name, and with the exception of Dabarran's brother failed to enlist his colleagues as character witnesses. The medical examiners report contained information contradicting the defendant's claim that Dabarran drank heavily before falling asleep that night yet Cole inexplicably failed to introduce such evidence. Sandra Pope, a former police officer and close friend of Dabarran observed, "It was painfully obvious to those who watched the trial unfold in Cobb County that the lead prosecutor became paralyzed by his own homophobia, freezing not only his objectivity, but his ability to act. Apparently the violent murder of a young, gay, black man in Cobb County was not worth the deliverance of justice." In an interview following the verdict Reed's mother Carolyn Reed-Hicks said, "I don't think the jury had anything against gay people. If a person chooses to be gay, that's his choice. But you don't impose yourself. Some men just hate that."



clinical trials expert steven wakefield analyzes the Vaxgen findings

"Yes, Tuskegee happened, but we can't continue to use it as an excuse for not participating in research; times and protections have changed."

The Black community and the scientific community are rocked by the recent news about the results of the world's first Phase III efficacy HIV vaccine study. Other vaccines continue to be tested for safety but this was the first test to see if a vaccine protected folks from HIV or AIDS.

VaxGen, a private company, announced that the vaccine had no significant effect on preventing HIV infection in 5009 volunteers. However, when broken down by race, VaxGen announced that the vaccine was 78% effective in African American individuals (the vaccine was reported to be about 64% effective in people of Asian decent). If this result is scientifically valid, then this is indeed great news for black people, especially since we have had mostly dismal news since the HIV epidemic began. Many scientists and statisticians are skeptical about the results for blacks stating that there weren't enough black participants in the study for the results to be statistically significant. Also, some scientists are stating that they can not think of any biological reason why blacks should have fared better than whites in this study.

Over the coming months, researchers will be pouring over the VaxGen data to verify the reported results. They will also have to share the data with scientists at NIH (National Institutes of Health) and CDC (Centers for Disease Control) for further analysis and verification. Irregardless of the final analysis, there are still several important factors that should be considered by the African American community. The argument that the participation numbers for blacks was too low to provide accurate vaccine results shows how important it is for blacks to step up and participate in research. Yes, Tuskegee happened, but we can't continue to use it as an excuse for not participating in research; times and protections have changed. We also need to pressure our local researchers to make sure that appropriate outreach efforts are being made in our communities to recruit participants in research in a culturally appropriate manner. We have a right to make this request since funding for many of these research projects are paid by taxpayer dollars.

Perhaps the most controversial question is whether or not the FDA (Food and Drug Adminstration) should consider licensing this vaccine for use in Blacks based on the study data. Some scientists say that results based on 13 infections is too few. Some Blacks are calling for another trial testing the vaccine on enough Black people to get a definitive answer. Others are skeptical and see this as just a conspiracy to get Africa to buy the vaccine. The NIH's HIV Vaccine Trials Network is reviewing all previous and current products to see if there is any difference in immune response by Black trial volunteers.

There are many other HIV vaccines being tested in humans that we will be hearing more and more about in the near future. Additional data regarding the effectiveness of the VaxGen product in Asians will come later this year when the results of another study currently being conducted in Thailand are released.

Vaccines control many other viral diseases like polio, measles, and smallpox. A vaccine is the best hope for controlling this epidemic that has ravaged our community and most of Africa. Without a cure or vaccine, safer sex behaviors remain the best way to protect yourself from HIV right now.

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INDICATIONS AND USAGE

PROCRIT® (Epoetin alfa) is indicated for the treatment of anemia related to therapy with zidovudine in human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-infected patients. PROCRIT is indicated to elevate or maintain the red blood cell level [as manifested by the hematocrit (HCT) or hemoglobin determinations] and to decrease the need for transfusions in these patients. PROCRIT is not indicated for the treatment of anemia in HIV-infected patients due to other factors such as iron or folate deficiencies, hemolysis or gastrointestinal bleeding, which should be managed appropriately.

PROCRIT, at a dose of 100 U/kg 3 times per week (TIW), is effective in decreasing the transfusion requirement and increasing the red blood cell level of anemic, HIV-infected patients treated with zidovudine, when the endogenous serum erythropoietin level is ≤500 mU/mL and when patients are receiving a dose of zidovudine ≤4200 mg/week.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

PROCRIT is contraindicated in patients with: 1) Uncontrolled hypertension; 2) Known hypersensitivity to mammalian cell-derived products; 3) Known hypersensitivity to Albumin (Human).

WARNINGS

Pediatric Use: The multidose preserved formulation contains benzyl alcohol. Benzyl alcohol has been reported to be associated with an increased incidence of neurological and other complications in premature infants, which are sometimes fatal. PROCRIT therapy has not been linked to exacerbation of hypertension, seizures, and thrombotic events in HIV-infected patients.

Pure Red Cell Aplasia

Pure red cell aplasia (PRCA), in association with neutralizing antibodies to native erythropoietin, has been observed in patients treated with recombinant erythropoietins. PRCA has been reported in a limited number of patients exposed to PROCRIT. This has been reported predominantly in patients with CRF. Any patient with loss of response to PROCRIT should be evaluated for the etiology of loss of effect (see PRECAUTIONS: Lack or Loss of Response). PROCRIT should be discontinued in any patient with evidence of PRCA and the patient evaluated for the presence of binding and neutralizing antibodies to PROCRIT, native erythropoietin, and any other recombinant erythropoietin administered to the patient. Amgen/Ortho Biotech Products, L.P. should be contacted to assist in this evaluation. In patients with PRCA secondary to neutralizing antibodies to erythropoietin, PROCRIT should not be administered and such patients should not be switched to another product as anti-erythropoietin antibodies cross-react with other erythropoietins (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

PRECAUTIONS

The parenteral administration of any biologic product should be attended by appropriate precautions in case allergic or other untoward reactions occur (see CONTRAINDICATIONS). In clinical trials, while transient rashes were occasionally observed concurrently with PROCRIT therapy, no serious allergic or anaphylactic reactions were reported. (See ADVERSE REACTIONS for more information regarding allergic reactions.)

The safety and efficacy of PROCRIT therapy have not been established in patients with a known history of a seizure disorder or underlying hematologic disease (eg, sickle cell anemia, myelodysplastic syndromes, or hypercoagulable disorders).

In some female patients, menses have resumed following PROCRIT therapy; the possibility of pregnancy should be discussed and the need for contraception evaluated.

Hematology: Exacerbation of porphyria has been observed rarely in patients with chronic renal failure (CRF) treated with PROCRIT. However, PROCRIT has not caused increased urinary excretion of porphyrin metabolites in normal volunteers, even in the presence of a rapid erythropoietic response. Nevertheless, PROCRIT should be used with caution in patients with known porphyria.

In preclinical studies in dogs and rats, but not in monkeys, PROCRIT therapy was associated with subclinical bone marrow fibrosis. Therefore, zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients should have HCT measured once a week (QW) until HCT has been stabilized, and measured periodically thereafter.

Lack or Loss of Response: If the patient fails to respond or to maintain a response to doses within the recommended dosing range, the following etiologies should be considered and evaluated: 1) Iron deficiency: Virtually all patients will eventually require supplemental iron therapy (see Iron Evaluation). 2) Underlying infectious, inflammatory, or malignant processes. 3) Occult blood loss. 4) Underlying hematologic diseases (ie, thalassemia, refractory anemia, or other myelodysplastic disorders). 5) Vitamin deficiencies: folic acid or vitamin B12. 6) Hemolysis. 7) Aluminum intoxication. 8) Osteitis fibrosa cystica.

In the absence of another etiology, the patient should be evaluated for evidence of PRCA and sera should be tested for the presence of antibodies to recombinant erythropoietins.

Iron Evaluation: During PROCRIT therapy, absolute or functional iron deficiency may develop. Functional iron deficiency, with normal ferritin levels but low transferrin saturation, is presumably due to the inability to mobilize iron stores rapidly enough to support increased erythropoiesis. Transferrin saturation should be at least 20% and ferritin should be at least 100 ng/mL.

Prior to and during PROCRIT therapy, the patient's iron status, including transferrin saturation (serum iron divided by iron binding capacity) and serum ferritin, should be evaluated. Virtually all patients will eventually require supplemental iron to increase or maintain transferrin saturation to levels which will adequately support erythropoiesis stimulated by PROCRIT.

Drug Interactions: No evidence of interaction of PROCRIT with other drugs was observed in the course of clinical trials.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenic potential of PROCRIT has not been evaluated. PROCRIT does not induce bacterial gene mutation (Ames Test), chromosomal aberrations in mammalian cells, micronuclei in mice, or gene mutation at the HGPRT locus. In female rats treated intravenously (IV) with PROCRIT, there was a trend for slightly increased fetal wastage at doses of 100 and 500 U/kg.

Pregnancy Category C: PROCRIT has been shown to have adverse effects in rats when given in doses 5 times the human dose. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. PROCRIT should be used during pregnancy only if potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

In studies in female rats, there were decreases in body weight gain, delays in appearance of abdominal hair, delayed eyelid opening, delayed ossification, and decreases in the number of caudal vertebrae in the F1 fetuses of the 500 U/kg group. In female rats treated IV, there was a trend for slightly increased fetal wastage at doses of 100 and 500 U/kg.

Nursing Mothers: Postnatal observations of the live offspring (F1 generation) of female rats treated with PROCRIT during gestation and lactation revealed decreases in body weight gain, delays in appearance of abdominal hair, eyelid opening, and decreases in the number of caudal vertebrae in the F1 fetuses of the 500 U/kg group. It is not known whether PROCRIT is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when PROCRIT is administered to a nursing woman.

Pediatric Use: See WARNINGS, Pediatric Use.

Pediatric HIV-Infected Patients: Published literature has reported the use of PROCRIT in 20 zidovudine-treated anemic HIV-infected pediatric patients ages 8 months to 17 years, treated with 50 to 400 U/kg subcutaneously (SC) or IV, 2 to 3 times per week (BIW to TIW). Increases in hemoglobin levels and in reticulocyte counts, and decreases in or elimination of blood transfusions were observed.

Hypertension: Exacerbation of hypertension has not been observed in zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients treated with PROCRIT. However, PROCRIT should be withheld in these patients if pre-existing hypertension is uncontrolled, and should not be started until blood pressure (BP) is controlled. In double-blind studies, a single seizure has been experienced by a patient treated with PROCRIT.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Immunogenicity

As with all therapeutic proteins, there is the potential for immunogenicity. Cases of antibody-induced PRCA in patients treated with recombinant human erythropoietins have been described in publications.

Very rare occurrences of PRCA and the presence of antibodies with neutralizing activity have been reported since market introduction of PROCRIT in the United States (see WARNINGS: Pure Red Cell Aplasia). Cases have been observed in patients treated by both SC and IV routes of administration. Among reported cases where the route of administration is known, PRCA has been observed more with SC administration than IV administration.

The incidence of antibody formation is highly dependent on the sensitivity and specificity of the assay. Additionally, the observed incidence of antibody positivity in an assay may be influenced by several factors including sample handling, timing of sample collection, concomitant medications, and underlying disease. For these reasons, comparison of the incidence of antibodies to PROCRIT with the incidence of antibodies to other products may be misleading.

Adverse events reported in clinical trials with PROCRIT in zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients were consistent with the progression of HIV infection. In double-blind, placebo-controlled studies of 3-months duration involving approximately 300 zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients, adverse events with an incidence of ≥10% in either patients treated with PROCRIT or placebo-treated patients were:

Percent of Patients Reporting Event: Event followed by Patients Treated With PROCRIT (N=144) first, Placebo-Treated Patients (N=153) second:
Pyrexia 38%, 29%; Fatigue 25%, 31%; Headache 19%, 14%; Cough 18%, 14%; Diarrhea 16%, 18%; Rash 16%, 8%; Congestion, Respiratory 15%, 10%; Nausea 15%, 12%; Shortness of Breath 14%, 13%; Asthenia 11%, 14%; Skin Reaction (Administration Site) 10%, 7%; Dizziness 9%, 10%.

There were no statistically significant differences between treatment groups in the incidence of the above events.

In the 297 patients studied, PROCRIT was not associated with significant increases in opportunistic infections or mortality. In 71 patients from this group treated with PROCRIT at 150 U/kg TIW, serum p24 antigen levels did not appear to increase. Preliminary data showed no enhancement of HIV replication in infected cell lines in vitro.

Peripheral white blood cell and platelet counts are unchanged following PROCRIT therapy.

Allergic Reactions: Two zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients had urticarial reactions within 48 hours of their first exposure to study medication. One patient was treated with PROCRIT and one was treated with placebo (PROCRIT vehicle alone). Both patients had positive immediate skin tests against their study medication with a negative saline control. The basis for this apparent preexisting hypersensitivity to components of the PROCRIT formulation is unknown, but may be related to HIV-induced immunosuppression or prior exposure to blood products.

Seizures: In double-blind and open-label trials of PROCRIT in zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients, 10 patients have experienced seizures. In general, these seizures appear to be related to underlying pathology such as meningitis or cerebral neoplasms, not PROCRIT therapy.

OVERDOSAGE

The maximum amount of PROCRIT that can be safely administered in single or multiple doses has not been determined. Doses of up to 1500 U/kg TIW for 3 to 4 weeks have been administered to adults without any direct toxic effects of PROCRIT itself. Therapy with PROCRIT can result in polycythemia if the HCT is not carefully monitored and the dose appropriately adjusted. If the suggested target range is exceeded, PROCRIT may be temporarily withheld until the HCT returns to the suggested target range; PROCRIT therapy may then be resumed using a lower dose (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). If polycythemia is of concern, phlebotomy may be indicated to decrease the HCT.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Prior to beginning PROCRIT, it is recommended that the endogenous serum erythropoietin level be determined (prior to transfusion). Available evidence suggests that patients receiving zidovudine with endogenous serum erythropoietin levels >500 mU/mL are unlikely to respond to therapy with PROCRIT.

Starting Dose: For adult patients with serum erythropoietin levels ≤500 mU/mL who are receiving a dose of zidovudine ≤4200 mg/week, the recommended starting dose of PROCRIT is 100 U/kg as an IV or SC injection TIW for 8 weeks. For pediatric patients, see PRECAUTIONS, Pediatric Use.

Increase Dose: During the dose adjustment phase of therapy, the HCT should be monitored weekly. If the response is not satisfactory in terms of reducing transfusion requirements or increasing HCT after 8 weeks of therapy, the dose of PROCRIT can be increased by 50-100 U/kg TIW. Response should be evaluated every 4-8 weeks thereafter and the dose adjusted accordingly by 50-100 U/kg increments TIW. If patients have not responded satisfactorily to a PROCRIT dose of 300 U/kg TIW, it is unlikely that they will respond to higher doses of PROCRIT.

Maintenance Dose: After attainment of the desired response (ie, reduced transfusion requirements or increased HCT), the dose of PROCRIT should be titrated to maintain the response based on factors such as variations in zidovudine dose and the presence of intercurrent infectious or inflammatory episodes. If the HCT exceeds 40%, the dose should be discontinued until the HCT drops to 36%. The dose should be reduced by 25% when treatment is resumed and then titrated to maintain the desired HCT.

STORAGE

Store at 2° to 8°C (36° to 46°F). Do not freeze or shake.

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Artist: Miguel Angel Reyes

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RECLAIM YOUR POWER:
A 30-Day Guide to Hope, Healing, and Inspiration for Men of Color, Villard Books
by Tarrence Dean Foreward by Tavis Smiley

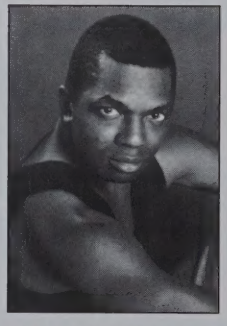
Growing up in Detroit, Terrance Dean faced many hardships including losing his mother (a heroin addict) and two younger brothers to the AIDS virus. Through it all, however, he never lost faith in God or in himself and used spirituality as a tool for overcoming what for others would have been insurmountable. Now a successful writer, speaker, and community philanthropist, Terrance has written *RECLAIM YOUR POWER! A 30-day Guide to Hope, Healing, and Inspiration For Men of Color* to help other black men like himself embrace and incorporate spirituality in their every day lives.

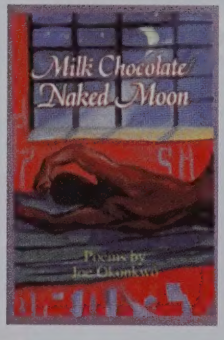
The literary Soul Writer and entrepreneur is the founder/creator of Men's Empowerment, Inc., The Education Source and The Chat 'n Chew Power Brunch. He is also co-creator of The Gathering of Men with Adeyemi Bandele, the husband and spiritual partner of acclaimed teacher and best-selling author Iyanla Vanzant. Dean made his literary debut with his self-published book, *Be Empowered: 30 Days of Meditation for Men of Color.* This book landed Dean his current book deal with the imprint Random House/Villard.

Designed in a day-by-day format, *RECLAIM YOUR POWER* offers wisdom in accessible bites by providing exercises and meditations that can be practiced anywhere, at any time. Themes such as "Trust Yourself", "Can't No One Stop You But You", and "Be An Inspiration" are assigned to each day and short narratives are provided to explain their significance. Exercises and quotes from famous men of color like Thurgood Marshall, Colin Powell, and Bill Cosby further enhance the learning experience and make it interactive.

Milk Chocolate/Naked Moon
by Joe Okonkwo On Demand Printing
ISBN: 0-595-24899-3
www.nakedmoon.net

Joe Okonkwo has produced a volume of poetry that is actually a mosaic of African-American and Gay issues. This riveting collection covers everything from Jazz and sex, to politics and dating; from racism within Gay community, to black on black racism. There are poems about the journey from depression to wholeness and poems about exuberant gay men flouncing about the streets wearing only silk boxer shorts and argyle socks. Joe Okonko fearlessly tackles taboo subjects such as what some African-Americans really think about the ghetto; who really bears the blame for slavery and how expectations set fourth by the Gay media affect those who don't or can't comply. *Milk Chocolate/Naked Moon* is exactly what we've been waiting for; an unpredictable page turning collection of poetry.





Sowa's Red Gravy Stories
by Diane Richards
1St Books Library
www.HarlemRenaissance Publishing.com

Spirits, good and bad, are everywhere in Harlem. As 110-year-year-old Witch, Sowa says, "If you don't know where yah going, it might be betta to stay at home." But *Sowa's Red Gravy Stories* is not about spooky stories of Harlem but rather about life's ups and downs and interesting folks in the neighborhood.

Author, Diane Richards is a proud member of the Harlem Writers Guild, the oldest African American writers guild in the world, and the legendary guild of Maya Angelou, Terry McMillian and Ossie Davis. Loving all genres of writing, Ms. Richards is the founder of HarlemRenaissancePublishing.com and HarlemRenaissanceWritersGuild.com. Both Internet companies focus on the development and promotion of young emerging African Americans writers.

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Michael A. Adams with Chicago designer Jesse Rodriguez

we've got your hook up!

our jet-setting travelor editor, Michael A. Adams, has done the Hot and Hip homework for you. Get out of the hotel this Pride Season and check these new spots to see and be seen.

Just for you, a list of the "hot and new" in major cities across the nation where LGBT festivals are scheduled this summer: The kind of places and things that tourists won't always come across on their own.

New York

With so much to be thankful for try praise and worship on Sunday morning at Donnie McClurkin's Perfecting Faith Church on Long Island, (516/223-8300). Dance up a storm, get the word, then head on over to Akwaakba Café for Sunday brunch.

Between the hours of 11:00 A.M and 6:00 P.M., in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of the city, Akwaaba serves a lavish buffet influenced by the African Diaspora. Turkey bacon, sweet potato pancakes, fried chicken, fish and sweet potatoes, salmon cakes and more. Owner/operator, Monroe Shannon describes the ambience as "upscale, but not uptight, with a very international, yet neighborly feel." (718/774-1444)

Black to Broadway is publisher, Charlene Cothran's pick for a stellar experience in theatre. "All the top Black Broadway performers and industry insiders flock to this event." Two things to remember: MONTHLY ON MONDAY! (www.b2productions.org) Don't forget Russell Simmons' Def Poetry play on Broadway. (www.playbill.com.)

Philadelphia

Trendy South Street is home to Galerie T' Elgee, the must see for fine art aficionados. Extraordinary works from Haitian and other artists of color are yours to see and take home. (www.galerietelgee.com)

For gallery owner Terrence L. Gore, the very opulent Ritz Carlton Hotel on Independence Mall, where a decadent chocolate buffet is served every Friday and Saturday evening, is Philly's must do. "It's a great place to swirl a costume, see and be seen."

History buffs and wannabes, which should include all of us, need to know Sandra Steward of Great American Tours. Her culturally enlightening tours will blow your mind! (www.gatours.com)

Chicago

For an experience in eccentricity, Jesse Rodriguez recommends a visit to Pasha where on Tuesdays and Saturdays you can Salsa, flamenco or belly dance to world music at its best, courtesy of the award winning Bandoleros. French-Italian cuisine is served until 3:00 A.M. weekdays and 4:00 on the weekend. Get this, the ladies room has a full service bar inside! Wonder what goes on in there...? Dress to impress for this multicultural, multi-sexual-crowd. (www.pasharest.com)

Atlanta

In Peachtree paradise, Trish Carter, author of "Linger: Lust is Surface," a scratch and sniff interactive, loves the Buckhead Backlot AMC Theaters at 3340 Peachtree Rd. NE. "You can order and receive beer, wine and food right from your seat."

Washington, D.C.

For the ultimate in tranquility, Vincent Reed suggests the United States National Arboretum. Situated on 446 acres with 9.5 miles of winding roadway, it's a picture perfect place for a picnic.

Exotic aquatic plants, Asian flowers, an azalea collection, holly and magnolia collections, an herb garden, a bonsai museum and on and on.... No wonder it was named one of the Top 10 Botanical Gardens in America! www.usna.usda.gov/

Miami

Flaunt your best assets over cocktails in the Showroom lounge at the just opened Hotel Clinton South Beach. Dine on display at Pao, where the cuisine is soul satisfying Chinese. Take it off for a dip in the wave pool. Then freshen up in the privacy of your room

Ultralight Adventure Ride in South Beach, Miami

where the layout is far less confining than most. With speakers throughout, watch cable TV, a DVD or listen to a CD from as far away as the bathroom. Grace the lobby with your presence once more to take advantage of the complimentary use of bikes, beach chairs and water coolers. Packaged deals for a two-nights stay including breakfast daily, a bottle of wine, and a three-hour bay cruise, begin at $155. (www.clintonsouthbeach.com)

Elevate your SoBe experience with an Ultralight Adventure Ride. An unobstructed view from the big blue provides an extraordinary observation of marine life in the aqua sea below. Tony, your personal pilot, can fly by exclusive Fisher Island, pass downtown Miami's skyscrapers and over the big, bad and beautiful cruise ships resting in port. www.ultralightadventures.com

By the way, the 12th Street beach is where the kids flock for fun and frolic.

Houston, TX

A best-kept secret according to Sean Dawson, vice president of Houston Splash, is the Breakfast Klub. Crispy chicken served with tender waffles, mouthwatering catfish and creamy grits with eggs and biscuits on the side are served at the 3711 Travis Street address. For the froux froux in you, espresso and gourmet coffee keep it real.

As a pre-dinner, post theater or just because option consider cocktails at Dive Lounge for an out of water experience at the new Downtown Aquarium. (www.downtownaquarium.com)

Los Angeles/ Southern California

On the cusp of Beverly Hills and West Hollywood you can't miss the Beverly Center, a half day doable shopping venue with Bloomies, Macy's, Armani, Hugo as in BOSS, D&G, Louis V. (for Vuitton), M.A.C. for your face and Neuhaus chocolates to taste. The food court rests above it all with an outdoor deck where on a clear day you can almost touch the downtown skyline.

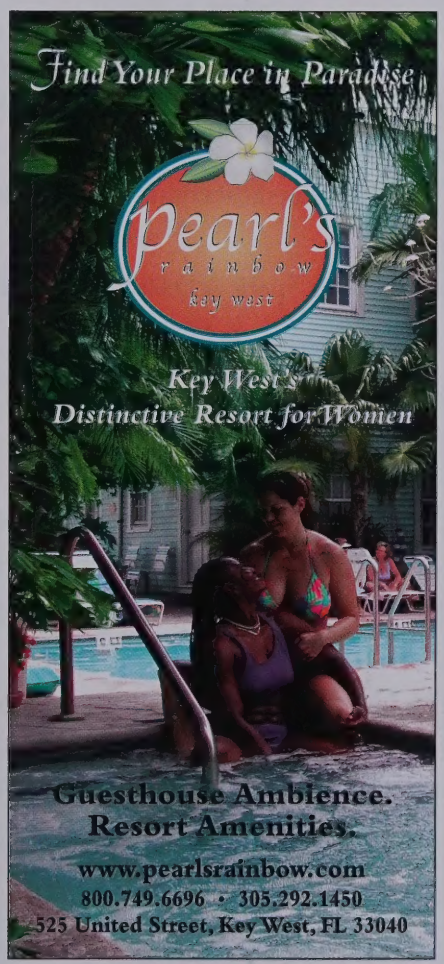
Two blocks north and three to the west is Elixir. This celebrity frequented, Melrose Avenue hot spot has some of the best teas in town. Out back there's a lovely garden with lots of cozy seating in a very serene scene bearing a fountain in the middle. If you're lucky you might catch or be caught! For best

results go with tea on your mind.

The Bay Area/Northern California Hot off the press, according to publicist Orlando De Bruce, the first Thursday and the fourth Saturday of every month is about Club Mirage at the Sound Factory. Located at 525 Harrison Street, it's San Francisco's only club catering to the black LGBT constituency since the departure of Club Rimshot/Bench and Bar. This multi level venue for men and women with several dance floors and bars is far from a dive.

Talk About Travel

Here's your chance to speak directly with our travel editor, Michaek A. Adms. Send mail to travel@venusmagazine.com. Share news, request reviews, get information and answers to your specific questions concerning travel and tourism.



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What I Wish My Mama Had Known
continued from page 35

school. Are they acting out in classes? Do they always seem to have an attitude with you? Some of it is age appropriate, but some of it may have to do with them trying to deal with you being gay. This especially rings true if you yourself have not come to terms with your own sexuality. If you seem apologetic or ashamed about being gay or they never hear you challenge others saying negative things about gays, then they are left without a guide and may exhibit similar behavior. Don't be afraid to seek family counseling support if necessary. There are therapists out there who understand Black LGBT issues.

4) Give your children the communication skills and personal tools needed to deal with tough situations. I got into fights all of the time about my mama being gay and know of folks who have been jumped in school because other kids found out they have a gay parent. You must teach your children how to respond effectively and safely when confronted with gay bias and discrimination – even if it is by a family member. Give your children the right language to use and encourage them to stand proud. Continue to empower them with your love and support. Affirm our community by teaching them about all of the powerful, intelligent and influential leaders, writers, athletes, educators, movie stars, and politicians that are Black and gay. Teach them to take pride in our families. Teach them to love their complex selves.

Alma de Cuba
continued from page 21

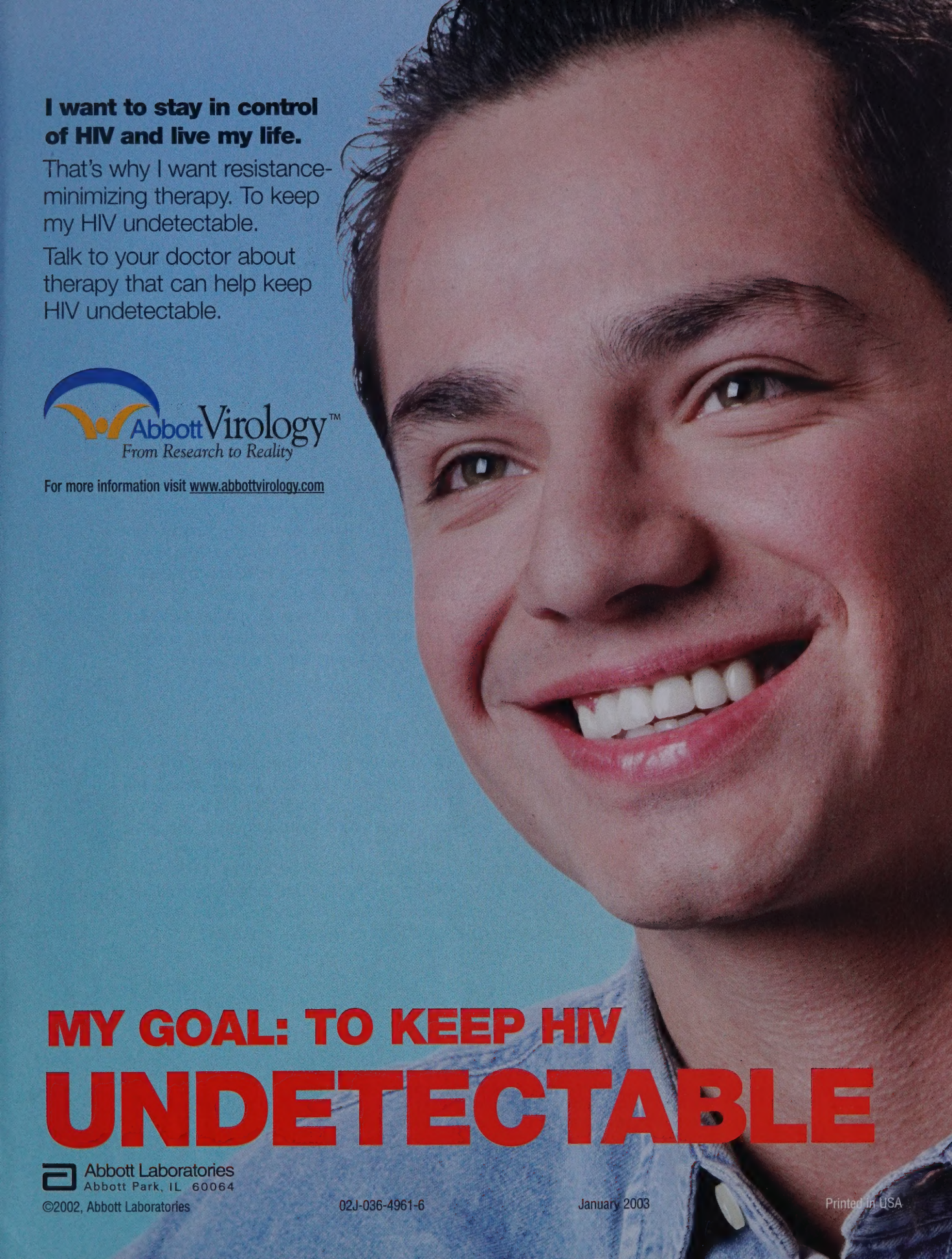
touch either of these.

Molton Fundido de Congrejo, a fondue of jumbo lump crab meat, malanga, manchego and chihuahua cheeses served with malanga and plantain chips, is one of those fun appetizers that will never disappoint. I'm also a fan of empanadas. Their truffled wild mushroom empanada made me want to holler and throw up both my hands! It's truffled empanada dough filled with shiitake, porcini and crimini mushrooms served over sweet onion escavilada in a sweet corn sauce. Shaking my head and licking my lips, all I can say when I was through was umh!

Seared scallops, if and when prepared to perfection, tend to do it for me. At Alma de Cuba pan seared diver scallops are wrapped in Serrano ham served with piquillo peppers, roasted tomato quinoa & marinated white asparagus with a black olive vinaigrette for a painstakingly enchanting entrée. If I had been home I would have removed my shoes to wiggle my toes in appreciation of such fine cuisine.

Delectable sides range from black beans and white rice, fried sweet plantains, sautéed spinach with garlic, arroz imperial, yuca rellenas with lamb picadillo and yuca fries with mojo. And I thought that Miami's Versailles (a Cuban classic) had it going on!

For desert, you've got to try the chocolate cigar. It's actually almond cake wrapped in chocolate mousse, dusted with chocolate and served with dulce de leche ice cream. And to think that I thought I could taste it without eating it all...! Also, if you've never had Cuban coffee, do your self a favor and try it. It's really strong, which will help you get moving in case you ate too much of a good thing.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remembering sistah simone

words by Michael K. Watts
image by Carol Friedman

The world mourns the loss of legendary jazz pianist Nina Simone

Nina Simone, The High Priestess of Soul known for transcending racial and musical barriers, raising social consciousness, and invoking tears and cheers with the raspy sound of her voice, died on April 21 at her home in Carry-le-Rouet in Southern France. She was 70.

Simone's manager Clifton Henderson was at her bedside and says she died in her sleep of "natural causes" after a long illness. Despite failing health in recent years, Simone continued traveling around the globe, performing her extraordinary repertoire of jazz, folk, gospel, blues and soul music that made her an enigmatic songstress for many decades. On stage she was the consummate pianist and vocalist, with a sometimes soothing, sometimes searing voice that was unforgettable. Off stage, she was a tormented genius ahead of her time, often temperamental and abrasive, unable to cope with the unavoidable racism of her native land.

Born Eunice Kathleen Waymon in 1933 in Tryon, North Carolina, she began playing the piano at age 4. She received a scholarship to the Juilliard School of Music--a rare opportunity for Blacks in the 1950s. But she ran out of money to support herself after a year at Juilliard, so she left school and moved back in with her family who lived in Philadelphia at the time. To make money she began singing jazz and playing piano at nightclubs in Philadelphia and Atlantic City. She assumed her stage name to keep her staunch Methodist mother from finding out how she was making her money. Her Hispanic boyfriend nicknamed her Nina ("little girl"), and the name Simone was inspired by French actress Simone Signoret.

Her classical training combined with her raw, often piercing voice made her a hit on the club circuit, despite her then unconventional afrocentric hairstyle and attire. Eventually, the mainstream music industry took note, and in 1957 she recorded her first album, which produced her first hit, a rendition of Gershwin's "I Loves You, Porgy." Other hits like "My Baby Just Cares for Me" and "I Put a Spell on You" would follow. In the 1960s she became a musical icon in the civil rights movement, using her music as her platform for activism. Infuriated by the murder of civil rights advocate Medgar Evers and the Birmingham church bombing that killed four young girls, Simone recorded powerful songs like "To Be Young, Gifted and Black," "Four Women," "Why (The King of Love is Dead)" and "Mississippi Goddam." The bitterness that shines through in the latter song would eventually lead her to leave the United States in the 1970s, fed up with entrenched racism and broke from a fledgling career once her music of empowerment was no longer en vogue.

Simone lived in Britain, The Netherlands, Barbados, Trinidad and Liberia before eventually settling in France in 1984. She still recorded a couple of albums in the Unites States, and in 1991 she penned her autobiography, *I Put a Spell On You*. Her 1993 album "A Single Woman" received critical acclaim, rejuvenating her career. Yet, just as she was riding a wave of renewed popularity in the 1990s, her health began to decline, prompting her to perform less and less. Her timeless music and indomitable spirit will be remembered for years to come.

Simone is survived by three brothers, a sister and one daughter, Lisa Celeste, a singer and actress known professionally as Simone, who currently stars on Broadway in AIDA. The younger Simone has established the Nina Simone Foundation in her mother's honor. For more information contact the Foundation at 156 West 56th Street, 4th Floor, New York, New York 10019.

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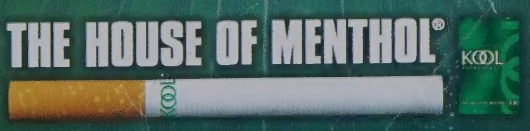

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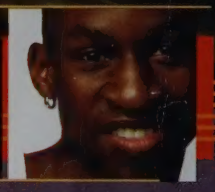

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